Fowler, Roy A History of the High River District 96-93-783
(Notebook 1/Part I)

THE SENATE
CANADA

OTTAWA, June 20, 1936.

Roy L. Fowler, Esq.,
HIGH RIVER,
Alberta.

Dear Roy,-

Some days ago I mailed your manuscript and addressed it to High River, Alberta. I thought it wise to register it as it represents a tremendous lot of work to you and is also a valuable contribution to the early history of the High River district. It could be whipped into form for publication as a book and probably this is what should be done with it, but even in its present form, it will be almost invaluable to the future historians as a reference book to many of the localities in that district. Living as you have been all your life between High River and Okotoks, naturally there seems to be a preponderance of information concerning the High River district, more particularly the farming districts and the people who settled there in the early days.

Although High River has always been my head-quarters since coming to the West, my interests have been with the cattlemen and in the cattle country south of High River. If I were to criticize your work in a general way, I would say that you should get more particulars and intimate information regarding some of the old-time cattlemen, the old-time ranches and some of the stirring events of the early days. The difficulty for you, as I see it, would be to find any of the old men who could, or would, give you such information. I do not want to make comparisons but in that regard, Mr. Fred Ings, who is publishing a book on

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the early history of High River and particularly, I understand, of the cattle country, has a most tenacious memory of those early days and the little interests that make such a story readable and interesting. However, your operations have been in a slightly different field and are, nevertheless, just as valuable as his. Should you publish yours in book form, the two publications, I have no doubt, would pretty well cover the entire field of the early settlement of the High River district.

My manuscripts, which were enclosed in your envelope, I have retained here. I might say that some of these at least are being considered by some of those press men as magazine articles and for that reason I have kept them here.

The House will close tonight or on Monday and after a few days spent on Prince Edward Island, I intend returning to High River and hope to see you then and go more fully into your work.

With kind regards to you all,

Sincerely yours,

D. E. Riley.

A History of the High River District as compiled by Roy. L. Fowler

1 Introduction

2. Geography, Geology & Natural History

3. Indians & Traders

4. Story of Ranching & ranchers

5. History of Farming

6. Government. (A) R.N.W.M.P
(B) Political

7. Development of Towns & P.O.

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8 Miscellaneous stories collected by Mr Fowler

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HISTORY OF THE HIGH RIVER DISTRICT

ROY FOWLER

Geography

A glance at the map will reveal such place names as Ing's Creek, Sullivan Creek, Stimpson Creek, Wilson Coulee, Frank Lake, Linehem Coulee, Livingstone Range and so on. Every such place name commemorates the name of one of our pioneers.

Sullivan Creek was named after John Sullivan who with his wife and family made their home there in 1889.

Ing's Creek runs through the well known OH Ranch, founded by the Ings' brothers in the year 1883.

Fred Stimpson's name is commemorated by Stimpson Creek. He was a part owner and the first manager of the famous Bar U Ranch.

The Wilson family are among the earliest of the Old Timers in the Okotoks district, and so we have Wilson Coulee.

Frank Lake east of High River was named after Bishop C. Frank one of the leaders of the Mormon settlement of Frankburg. In the early topographical maps this was known as Begg Lake, after Alex Begg and more frequently stated as The Big Lake. It was changed to Frank Lake in the resurvey of 1926.

We have in Ware Creek a constant reminder of a man who was famed as a bronk rider in the early days. John Ware or Nigger John as he was more generally known was more than a wild horse tamer, he was a real friend to all who knew him.

Miller Creek bares the name of Herb Miller, a man who had seen fifty years of service with the Bar U.

On Lineham Creek was situated the Lineham ranch. John Lineham, its owner was our first representative in the North West Territories Government.

Cameron Coulee is south of the town of Okotoks. It takes its name from Kenny Cameron, who had a stopping place where the town of Okotoks now stands. ~ 80's

The name of Mr. Henry Shephard is perpetuated in Shephard Creek, a tributary of the south fork of the Highwood. It was here that Mr Gregg and Mr. Shephard had a horse ranch in the late 80's.

Sheep River was so named because of the presence of domestic sheep in the vicinity at the time of the survey. Donald Grey had eight hundred head of sheep there in 1884.

Highwood River is the interpretation of the Indian word Spitzie (Spitzee), meaning "high trees".

Pekisko Creek and Pekisko Hills were so named by the Stoney Indians. The word Pekisko means "Many Hills".

Introduction

The history of a nation or a district is not entirely the story of its kings, or war lords its statesmen or demigogues, but the advancment of the common people is the true story of progress.

In the struggle for freedom there have been pioneers in the field of mechanics and industry in the field of politics and legislation, and in the field of territory. In this latter field I have in mind those hardy souls who first entered into ranching and agriculture in this country and whose efforts made the new west what it is today.

*"So close are we to the first real settlement of our country, that we are in actual touch with many of our pioneers, and it is perhaps because they are still with us, that we fail to recognize the importance of their lives and deeds. We fail to make use of their achievments as a stimulant ot the spirit and independence of our youth. Yet there are dozens of our Western pioneers whose lives are comparable in achievement with the lives of early explorers lauded in history. Our own pioneers were not staked by kings and governments. They ventured on their own resources, into an unknown land, not as explorers, but as searchers for settlement and as builders. The history of the development of the ranch industry and of the wheat industry, and of the men who ventured and suffered, experimented and conquered is magnificent history. Those strong personalities within arms reach of us, are responsible for the roads and the railroads which we use, for the coming of the telegraph and telephone, for the development of our cities, and all the amenities of our Western lives." Editorial High River Times.

Turner Valley is now famous throughout the world as the scene of Canada's premier Oil-field. Mr Turner was a well known horse rancher of that district

Meinsinger Lake was named after Jim Meinsinger, one of the first men of the Bar U, and one of those who help to erect the first log buildings there.

The Livingstone range of mountains were prospected by Sam Livingstone between 1870 and 1880, but he found no gold worth mentioning.

The names given to the towns and post offices are dealt with in a later chapter.

Taking the district as a whole we note that it is a part of the third prarie steppe and it is more rolling than those steppes to the eastward. It is drained by several clear swift streams; the main one being the Highwood River which has its source back of the first range of mountains fifty miles west of High River. Some miles north of High River Sheep River flows into the Highwood and a few miles further on it enters Bow River. Six miles west of Cayley the country rises to a height of thirty-seven hundred feet thus diverting the flow of Mosquito Creek south and east toward the Old Man River. The Little Bow River also flows south eastward following the course of an ancient river bed, probably an inter-glacial stream. The Little Bow starts within the town of High River and is now used as part of an irrigation project.

The foothills country is well supplied with natural springs and even out on to the prairie springs of good water are to be found. The water-table of the district is comparativelynear the surface and almost every farmer is able to get water at a reasonable depth; so that in this respect the country is especially suited to grazing and agriculture.

Geology

The story of the past is the key to the future; for man does but develop what nature has placed here in the world for his use.

This district bears the mark of several geologic periods and each change has left behind it something of economic value.

Our prolific soil is a product of the Ice Age. The great Ice sheet that once covered all of Canada as it moved slowly southward pulverized the rocks in its path and so our soil contains every mineral ingredient for the nurture of plant life.

The Ice Age also left behind it clays, sands and gravels of commercial use. The gravel pit at Aldersyde has supplied much of the gravel for the railway bed and for the surfacing of many miles of the Macleod and Sunshine highway.

A short distance north west of Hazeppa are sand pits containing a very fine grade of sand which would be especially useful in plaster surfaceing and in moulded concrete work. Coarser sands may be obtained at many places along our creeks and rivers.

Near Aldersyde is a deposite of ceramic clay, which on test has been found to be of excellent quality for the manufacture of chinaware as well as other clay products.

Some years ago low grade brick was manufactured at three different places close to High River. At one of these places a half mile north of town a large quantity of brick was made. The place was abondened in 1906 and no attempt was ever made to use it again. The town of Sandstone owes its origon to the establishment of a large brick making plant at this point. Steam shovels and carrying tracks were installed and several burning kilns were in continuous operation. The making of brick was then a thriving business at Sandstone, but about fifteen years ago this place was closed. The use of natural gas for burning purposes would improve this product and cheap brick of fair quality might even yet find a ready market.

Several farmers have been successful in drilling for natural gas on their farms and have obtained suffient for their own domestic needs. As this gas comes from the under-lying Edmonton coal seam: it is probable that many more farmers could obtain natural gas at a reasonable depth and cost. The average depth at which gas should be obtained is around three hundred feet. The gas pressure from this seam is no where heavy and care must be taken to cement off all water.

The most important coal projects awaiting development are the Ford Mines on the north fork of the Highwood and also the Burns' Mines up Sheep River. This coal is in the Kootenay formation and is a high grade of anthracite coal. The depoist is almost one thousand feet in thickness and its carbon content is nearly one-third more than that of coals of the Edmonton or Belly River series.

kins and M. W. Doherty, directors.

Oil Found in 1879

Proof Presented of Discovery

Proof that the first crude oil was found in Alberta in November, 1879, 57 years ago, was brought to the Herald, Thursday, by William McCardell, well known pioneer resident of Banff.

Mr. McCardell produced a letter from Joseph Lake, now residing at Invermere, B.C. This letter stated that in November, 1879, he was managing the Carlin and Lake store in Anthracite, near Exshaw. "Billy McCardell and Lafayette French," he states, "brought in crude oil from the mountains. It was sent to Ottawa to be assayed. It consisted of 95 per cent lubricating oil and five per cent vegetable matter."

Mr. McCardell also received a letter from Howard Sibbald of Banff, now in California, who stated he was in charge of the Scott and Leeson ranch, 10 miles south of Morley, in 1879. Mr. McCardell and the late Lafayette French brought in samples of crude oil to him and it was tested in a lamp.

Mr. McCardell told the Herald the oil was found near Waterton Lakes. A company known as the Homestake Oil Company was formed with a capital of $10,000 to develop the finding. Unfortunately a salt water, instead of a crude oil, gusher was drilled in. Then a prairie fire burnt down the derrick and the venture came to an end.

...Shortly after the opening of the present century, the Rocky Mountain Development Company drilled a well at Waterton Lakes and the discovery of a considerable quantity of oil was claimed. At the present time a well is being drilled by Oil City Royalties, Limited, in the Waterton district.

The first crude oil found in Alberta was discovered by
Capt. Tom Lynch — William McCardell while prospecting
in the Waterton Lakes district during the fall of 1879.
The oil from the seepage located by them was analyzed
to contain 9 per cent volatile & five per cent asphaltic matter.
For many years, this oil skimmed from the creek, was
used only to grease the wheels of carts & wagons.
About 1901 a company known as the Rocky Oil
Company was formed to develop the finding. Their well
brought in a gusher of sweet water. Then when the gas
pressure was found down by a practical joke, & the water
came flowing out, the same was
The late John Lineham formed a company known as
the Rocky Mountain Development Co., This company
drilled some oil, but because of the inaccessible location
of the well the oil was never put to commercial use.

We have three other coal mines within the district one at Black Diamond, one on Spring Creek, east of Hartel and one also on the Highwood west of Longview. These workings are not extensive and all are Edmonton coal seams. On Mosquito Creek and also on the Little Bow are outcroppings of coal.

Our local Sandstone ~~was formed during~~ is designated as of the Paskapoo Age, and it is therefore rather soft and subject to faulting yet it has given good service where it has been used. The Trading Company store in High River built in 1897 is not showing much effect of weathering and the same may be said of the stone school built in 1898. Some sandstone walls and sandstone foundations in Okotoks are also standing up good. Two ~~sandstone~~ houses near Nanton are also in fine condition. ~~The sandstone for these were taken from the Porcupine Hills.~~ - from Little Bow 3 miles south of Nanton.

~~No report of this kind would be complete without reference to Turner Valley Oil Fields.~~ In 1902 W. S. Herron and W. E. McLeod took up oil leases in Turner Valley. They sub-let these leases to the Calgary Petroleum Products Company headed by A. W. Dingman. In July 1912, this well struck some oil. The Duke and Duchess of Connought visited the scene at this time and Princess Pat washed her gloves in the gasoline supplied from this well. In October 1913 at a depth of fifteen hundred and thirty six feet more oil of better quality was found. In the following years ... several companies located sites for wells but the depth ... soon found.

In 1919 a small refinery was built to handle the gas from the two Calgary Petroleum Wells. Then the Imperial Oil took over the Calgary "Pete" Company, in 1921 and their first well became Royalite No. 1. The fall of 1924 marked the coming in of the famous Royalite 4 well. This well started with a flow of fifteen million cubic feet of gas and increased to twenty one million cubic feet per day and at its height it produced six hundred barrels of naphtha a day. This was the beginning of intensive devlopment in Canada's foremost oil field. In February 1928 Home No. 1 blew in at a depth of five thousand two hundred and eighty feetand; in November of the same year Okalta became a producer at a depth of five thousand and forty feet. The field was extended several miles further south when Carleton Royalties was shown to be a successful well. Close by on the very peak on the Big Hill the Highwood Sarcee well became a big producer with a pressure of over twelve hundred pounds. Since then all attention in development has been centered on the south end of the field.

On the Prince of Wales' Ranch near Pekisko the PEKISKO H... has taken the attention of petroleum geologists and it is hoped that a crude oil will be found here at a lesser depth than Turner Valley. On the Aldersyde structure the Ranchmens' Well has been slowly prospecting. It is now at a depth of over six thousand feet and some gas has been encountered. ~~This is now the deepest well in the British Empire.~~ Credit must be given to its promoters for their great perseverence in meeting difficult situations and it is hoped that success will crown their efforts. Because of the amount of gas and oil already obtained at the Ranchmens', the Canadian National Western Gas Company have spent a considerable sum in prospecting for gas and oil by means of the ~~seismographic~~ geophysical search method. As a result ... River, this well reached the Madison limestone at ...

This sentence to be added directly below the note on the b buffalo.

Although the buffalo were gone there bones and skulls lay scattered everywhere upon the prairie and after 1890 a thriving business was done in the gather of buffalo bones for use in the sugar industry. The collectors and shippers were paid eight dollars a ton for these bones which were calcined and used to bleach the sugar. Many Indian skulls were found and thrown in with the other bones. It is believed that most of these skulls were due to the fact that the Indians did not bury their dead who had died of smallpox.

Natural History

This chapter has been added

I ~~have added this chapter in Natural History~~ because there have been many changes during the last fifty years. The advance of settlement drove out or made extinct several species of animals and at the same time introduced many species of foreign plants. I am here dealing only with changes that have taken place, and this is not a scientific tabulation of the natural life of the district.

ANIMALS

The first and most noticable change was the extinction of the buffalo. In 1877 thirty thousand buffalo hides were shipped out of Fort Macleod and two years later only five thousand seven hundred and sixty four hides were taken. In 1882 there were no buffalo to be found anywhere around High River. The extinction of the buffalo was the turning point in the change from the primeval to the new west.

The wolves which had formerly followed the buffalo herds did not become extinct with the loss of their natural meat supply. The ranches that were being founded were stocking up with large herds and the wolves turned their attention to the cattle. These wolves were distinctly a species of wolf and not the common coyote as some have stated. They were larger in size than a coyote and varied in color from almost white to nearly black. They destroyed so many cattle in the early days of the ranching industry that the Stockmens' Association was forced to pay a bounty on wolves. Then from 1890 onward Indians and Halfbreeds, cowboys and settlers, took an active interest in the ways of wolves and so successful were they in eradicating the pests that by 1897 the bounty was removed, but again in the year 1900 the Association agreed to pay fifteen dollars for each female wolf. It was not until 1908 that the government took an interest in the matter and on the instigation of W. B. Thorne the government finally agreed to pay a bounty on wolves killed south of Red Deer. This brought about the desired result and today there are no wolves to be found anywhere around this country. The last wolf was killed by Fulton Thompson in 1917.

Hunting wolves was a sport much enjoyed by cattlemen and cowboys and wolf hounds were introduced to help in the chase. Sometimes a cowboy would see a wolf and chase it for miles. One day Herb Miller who was riding a particularly good horse chased a wolf ~~from Sauaw Coulee near Bayley~~ up to the south fork of the Highwood before he finally shot it. George Lane riding a horse called Baldy followed and killed ~~three~~ 5 wolves in one afternoon.

The coyote continues today but much reduced in numbers to what they formerly were, a few years ago it was not uncommon to see bands of six or eight coyotes but today one will only occasionaly meet with a lone coyote. The destruction of the coyotes has brought about a corresponding increase in the numbers of jack rabbits.

The badger will soon be extinct unless it is protected even ten years ago a person would see at least one bafger during a days ride but today a new badger den is seldom seen. ~~In fact a person may not now see a single badger in a year.~~ during

In 1882 the small prong- horn or Antelope were mentioned by a travellor as being the only animal seen grazing on certain leases along Willow Creek. A few years later the few antelope that remained migrated out onto the short grass country north of Medicine Hat. Although they have since increased in numbers due to government protection they have never come back to this district again.

The Kit-fox was a pretty little animal of the same color as its cousin the red fox but only about one-third the size. They lived in underground dens and always chose a dry sandy knoll in which to burrow. They were fairly prolific but intensive hunting by Indians and whites soon anhilated them. In 1898 two large litters; probably thirty in all were noticed by my father on the Tex Roberts' place about a mile out of town. This seems to be the last record of Kit-foxes around High River district.

The traveller in the foothills will occasionally find in some swampy place the weather antlers of moose and elk along with the skulls and bones of buffalo thus showing that moose and elk (Wapti) were once fairly plentiful along the Highwood range. ~~But I believe that neither animal is to be found anywhere along the foothills today.~~ Due to good protection these animals are now increasing in numbers to the first range of mountains but they do not graze out onto the foothills where they once roamed.

During the trader days of the early '70's the beaver were almost exterminated because the beaver skin was much in demand. The decrease in numbers of this rodent has greatly increased the fire hazard and there have been a number of disastrous prairie and forest fires which would not have spread so extensively had there been more beaver dams and swamps. Then too; beaver dams are natural reservoirs, the need of which have been apparent during the past few years. On Tongue Creek and the upper reaches of the Highwood there are again a few beaver dams and also on Sheep River one may see the beavers at work now.

increased

BIRDS

Every old timer remembers how plentiful the ~~Pinnated~~ SHARP-TAILED grouse or Prairie chicken used to be. My father tells of how he and a companion were once blizzard-bound on Fish Creek for a whole month the last half of which they lived on prairie chicken and dumplings without salt. It was impossible to move their freighting wagons and so there they stayed and obtained their birds with the aid of a muzzle-loading shot gun.

The open prairies is the natural home of the prairie chicken but the few remaining flocks have now migrated to the foothills and none at all are to be seen on the prairie. When it was seen that the chicken must be protected; Harry Gould, ~~another~~ one sportsman, decided to bring in the European or Hungarian partridge. In 1920 two pair were placed at the Trading Company Ranch and two pair on the Bar U ranch. It was five years before any increase was seen but they have since then quickly multiplied and are now scattered over the entire district. In 1929 pheasants also were introduced and they seem to be quickly adapting themselves to this climate and are increasing in numbers.

To late for Joseph Cooper shot a falcon on the Big Elk in 1882. This is the only record of the falcons passing here on the northern migration

In 1907 no English sparrow were to be seen in this district. How they came here and to what place to which they first came no one knows. Today every town and farm building is overridden with the pests.

A common topic of conversation among our sportsmen is the almost complete disappearance of the wild ducks. Twenty -five years ago, thousand of wild ducks of several species made this their summer home and breeding grounds and on every large pond would be several broods of ducks.

Mr. Harry Gould began the collection and observation of our birds in 1903 and is probably the first to prepare a list of the birds of southern Alberta. His collecting and notes have been a great help to other naturalists and ornitholigical societies.

INSECTS

In the field of entomology the late Mr Thomas Baird was known throughout the scientific world. In 1896 he began a collection of the insects to be found here and he sent many specimens to the London Museum, to the Smithsonian Institute and the last of his collection was forwarded to the University at Edmonton. He made many notes and observations which were embodied in the writings of others but he himself never published any papers on the work he had accomplished.

At least several species of insects have been imported into this district. The nose flies and bot flies are the natural parasities of the horse and were brought here with the first horses used by the Indians. The heel fly or warble fly was brought in with the herds of cattle driven up from the United States. The Colorado bettle or potato bug was noticed here over twenty five years ago but it is only during this last dry spell that they have done any noticable harm.

The common earth worm or angle worm is to be found in a number of places and was introduced by the settlers from Ontario who brought rhubarb roots with them.

Trees and Plants

Nearly all the plants that have been introduced have come because of the intensive development of agriculture and most of these imported plants are rightly classed as weeds. Most of these weeds are of European origin and have made themselves at home as agriculture has moved westward.

Stink weed or french weed was brought in with the seed supplied to farmers during the drouth period of 1889 to 1896 but it was not until about 1912 that this weed spread behond all control.

The feed supplies used by the railroad and highway grading crews dissiminated such weeds as tumbling mustard, ball mustard and russian thistle. Although Russian thistle and tumbling mustard have proved to be a serious menace in the dryer section of the province they are troublesome here only in the dryest years.

The dandelion made its first appearance along the railroad track near High River and also near Okotoks in 1907. It is most likely that it spread from the feed and hay of some settlers effects. There is a story to the effect that certain parties deliberately scattered the seeds of the dandelion for the purpose of growing this plant from which to make dandelion wine.

The small alsike clover has made itself at home around High River for many years now and children love to look among the plants for the traditional four leaf clover. Around Okotoks and High River it has not spread beyond the brushy areas where it is well protected. During the last ten years sweet clover has spread and is now growing wild.

Two other plants primarily intended for hay purposes; timothy and broumus grass have broken the confines of cultivated fields and may now be found along the roadsides in many places.

To the above list of plants we may add toad flax, bladder campion, sow thistle, European daises. These are plants that have found their way into our district in the last three or four years.

The first windbreak planted in this district was set out on the Gladys Ridge farm of Mr. Harry Hanks in 1885 or 1886. He planted Manitoba maple seedlings and as this was the first attempt to transplant trees here the experiment was watched with considerable interest. His effort was successful but the idea of planting windbreaks did not become popular until many years later. During the last fifteen years several varieties of hardy populars and willows of European origin have been planted along with the caragana of Russia, and these have been found to make good windbreaks. Although these species of imported trees thrive wonderfully well I have never seen them spread beyond the ground on which they were planted.

Red currents were first successfully grown by Mr. Tommy Thompson of Gladys and in 1896 he had more than enough for his own use. Red current bushes may now be found growing wild along the banks of the bow river. This is the only instance of an introduced small fruit spreading and growing wild.

Recent experimients have been carried on by a number of people in the planting and developin of hardy varieties of small fruits. Mr. Hess of Nanton has been very successful and his garden shows what may be attained with knowledge and proper care. Mr. Van Heywood of Gladys has been growing a variety of crab-apples and Mr. T. E. Bowman has been successful with sand cherries dew berries and small plums.

Amphibia and Reptilia

One species of snake seems to have completely disappeared. These were a kind of black snake and in 1903 my mother saw one that was fully five feet long and about the size of a man's arm. Some years later a small one of this species was reported as being seen not far from the Gladys School but apparently none have been ever seen during the last fifteen years. About two miles south east of Aldersyde there is a small oxbow slough adjoining the river which used to be the habitat of scores of garter snakes. It was at this place also that my mother saw this large black snake.

The dark colored snake, which is really the mountain garter snake, is still found quite frequently in the Porcupine Hills district.

General Statement

All life on the prairies is subject to the periods of drouth followed by the periods of excessive rainfall . For example, it was very dry from 1889 to the year 1896; one year of this period was so dry that rye grain would not sprout and yet in 1902 (only six years later) ther was thirty-six inches of rainfall. In 1858 Captain Palliser called this a desert but in 1877 Father Lacombe found it exceeding wet. During 1879 Macoun travelled three thousand miles over the plains covered with rich tall grass that reached to his horses belly and he could not understand why Palliser had called it a desert. Whether it was called a desert or a rich plain depended entirely on the period inwhich the early explorers travelled across the prairies.

The present grasshopper plague is not the first visitation of this pest, for in nearly ever record of dry years of the past there is a comment on the depredations of grasshoppers. Grasshopper glacier in Montona shows six distinct layers of grasshoppers embeded in the ice and in between each layer is several feet of clear ice.

The big lake (Frank lake) was dry from 1895 to 1897; a crop of grain was sown and harvested in its basin and yet in 1902 it was deep enough to float a steamer, as one old timer remarked. Today it is dry again, but now it is an alkali flat that will produce nothing, neither grain nor grass will grow in its basin.

During the wet years when the ponds and lakes were ful and the rivers overflowed their banks all forms of aquatic and shore life increased greatly. Wild ducks, curlews kildeers, plover and all such birds made this district their breeding and nesting grounds. The rivers swarmed with fish at spawning time; they would crowd into the Little Bow in such numbers that they could be tossed out with the aid of a pitch fork. Grayling, suckers and pike, would descend the little Bow climb the falls into the Big Lake and from their make their way up a little stream that had its source on Gladys Ridge. The writer remembers seeing in 1907 nice grayling in this stream at a point two miles north west of Mazeppa. The same stream empty into the Big Lake have not found suffuncte since last time, or fish to grow any more, even if they were just looking for a spawning ground.

Wet years will probably come again as they have in the past but certain changes have taken place that will lessen their influence. For instance at least ninety percent of the country is under cultivation this increases evaporation and the loss of the deep grass and vegetable mould of the unbroken sod will lessen the storage capacity of the soil. Forty years ago ploughed fields drifted as they are drifting today but, with the advent of the wet years soil drifting ceases. Even if wet years come again soil drifting may not cease as it did last time because of the fact that the soil has lost a large proportion of the humus matter which it formerly contained.

So we see that man's influence on the natural history of a district is noticable indeed.

To the Student of our Natural History [illegible]
the use of following books –

Trees — Native Trees of Canada – Forestry Bulletin #61
Dept of Interior – Ottawa.

animals — North American Mammalia – Putnam & Sons.

Rocks – Field Book of Common Rocks + Minerals – Putnam & Sons.

Flowers — Flowers of Alberta – By Mrs Calla
Grays = Manual of Botany

Birds — Birds of Canada – by Fowler – Victoria
Memorial Museum – Ottawa.

George Emerson

The next record of a whiteman coming into the district was that of Mr. George Emerson. During the 1860's he came to Spitzie (High River) as a trader in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company. He tells us: "When I say High River in the '60's it was one huge encampment of Blackfeet, extending along the river bank from the present site of Rammages farm to the bench at Holmes' farm. Countless horses were in the encampment and the tribe seemed very thriving. High River was always a favorite camping spot, though no headquarters. The smallpox epidemic of the '70's greatly depleted the Indian tribe and scattered the Blackfeet ~~hither and yon~~."

Blackfoot Crossing - headquarters for Crowfoot.

Buffalo killing ground down little Bow ~~of~~ across from Sam Kemp's homestead. Driven over high steep banks by riders. Ground below rich in ~~stone~~ arrowheads & knives. Lower strata identified by experts as over 1000 yrs old. Many collected by Oscar Wilkinson.

Another jumping off place for killing at Nell round (sic) west of Nanton. Many bones are all right on the rock, the drive buffalo would stay. (a million pieces) - list of names of trees.

1

Indians and Traders

David Thompson

The two traders reigned in their horses and gazed along the river flat below them. "No Indians here"said the senior man; "so we will camp tonight in that deep hollow back from the river".

Their Indian guide spoke up, "We no camp in hollow; Stonies camp their "blackfeet come down from all around and kill 'em all. We camp on river bottom."

The spot where they chose to camp was on the north bank of the Highwood not far from its confluence with the Bow River.

While the Indian and the junior partner unpacked the horses and hobbled them so that they could feed but could not wander too far the senior partner prepared the evening meal. His fire was not the great fire usually prepared by a white man but it was a small hot almost smokless fire like that of an Indian camp. The men sat down to a ~~simple~~ meal of fried pancakes hot tea and dried pemmikon of buffalo meat.

"Big Crow, your squaw put chokecherries in this pemmikon instead of saskatoons."

"Ugh! ugh! the Indian replied, "stone berries oxey (good) in pemmikon same as saskatoon."

They continued to talk in a queer mixture of broken English and Indian words. Then they smoked in silence for a time and each then rolled up in his buffalo robe and all was quite.

In the morning they were on their way again soon after sun up.

"We will go west toward the mountains," remarked the leader "we may meet Indians along those buttes (hills), and at least we can get fresh antelope meat."

A few hours later they crossed Sheep River and about the middle of the afternoon they met a party of Piegans Indians, camped at the mouth of Tongue Creek at where is now Mr. Wallace's farm.

Thus it came about that David Thompson was probably the first white man to visit the High River district. This was in November of theyear 1800 and he and his partner had travelled down from Rocky Mountain House trading with the Blackfoot Indians they met on the way; for they had come by way of the Red Deer river and from there across to the ~~mint~~ [redacted] the Highwood River.

Just at the junction of the Highwood & Bow rivers were to be seen 40 or 50 lodges of Stoney Indians but the Blackfoot tribe to which I refer is not different to those ~~but~~ but it is likely that the place formerly belonged to both

P.S David Thompson in his diary told of meeting & Trading with another band of Piegan Indians, somewhere along the Bow river just below where the Highwood flows into it.

Dave Akers

About 1868 or '69 an independent American trader by the name of Dave Akers arrived in Spitzie (High River) and established the first permanent trading post.

A lone Indian jogged along the buffalo path that led southward from the Highwood river. As he topped the rise along the south bank he stopped short. What was that moving along in the distance? Was it buffalo? No! He pulled a mirror out of a little pouch at his side and signalled to a party of horsemen to the westward. They too had seen the dust and moveing objects and they galloped towards it. Dave Akers and his men watched apprehensively as the riders galloped toward them and wondered if these Indians were coming in peace or if it was a war party . About a hundred and fifty yards away the Indians ~~signalled~~ gave the signal of peace and then Dave Akers rode forward to greet their head man. He gave each man a peice of tobacco, then three of them rode away to prepare their camp for the coming of the paleface trader.

Dave Akers and his men had come with the intention of building a trading post on the Highwood. The spot where they chose to build was on land now owned by the Round T Ranch.

These men as they worked noticed that the Indians paid homage to the Spirits at a certain tree and that they left presents of tobacco etc. at its base. It was no ordinary tree for there were two great cottonwoods growing near each other and a limb of the one had grown into and become part of the other. This was a sign to the superstitious natives and so they worshipped this tree. The trader was wise in the ways of the Red men and he approached the chief and said to him:

"May we build a home near your medicine tree or does my red brothers wish that we go further up the river."

"The paleface may build his house here but he must not touch the medicine tree or he will anger the spirits", was the chiefs reply.

The fort is gone but the medicine tree still stands there in all its rugged strength.

Dave Akers post was destroyed after a few years then it was rebuilt by Howell Harris for the I. G. Baker Company in December of 1871; he left in May of 1872 and the post was again burned to the ground. Today only a few blackened stones mark the spot.

From 1870 to 1880 there were three different trading posts at High River, the one we have just told you about, another at the now Keith Nelson place and a third on where is Mr. Rammages farm.

It is interesting to note that although the H. B. Company were nominal therulers of the west and although the beaver skin was the unit of trade it remained for the I. G. Baker Co. to introduce a monetary system. They circulated a brass coinage of the denominations of five dollars, one dollar, fifty cents and twenty-five cents and these were stamped I. G. Baker Co. Later when the Hudson's Bay Company bought out the I. G. Baker Co. these coins were then overstamped with the letters H B C.

Lafayette French - who was Crowfoot's personal advisor.

One of the trading posts on the south side of the Highwood was owned and operated by Lafayette French, an independent trader who had settled there about 1871.

One day a tall well-built intelligent-looking Indian stopped into French's cabin.

"Hello Chief Crowfoot" and then in the Indian tongue ~~he~~ French asked "and what does Crowfoot want?"

"My people have many buffalo robes and much furs and they have come to trade with you," replied Crowfoot.

Crowfoot was the head chief of all the Blackfoot Confederacy and was known to white men and red as a man of exceptional ability and good judgement. A man whose word could be relied on and a man of common sense leadership. He was born about 1826 and at the age of fourteen he showed ~~real~~ unusual bravery and when he came of age to join the council he developed powers of oratory and reason that soon made him a leader among his people. He died at Blackfoot Crossing, April 24, 1890 and all who knew him felt they had lost a real friend.

The fact that Crowfoot had decided to trade with French displeased the other trader (probably of the H. C. Powers Co.) very much and he decided that the best form of revenge would be to get rid of Crowfoot altogether.

A renegade Blackfoot came to this trader and throwing down some skins asked for fire-water. The trader smiled as he thought to himself: "Here is my chance I know this Injun, once he is drunk he will do anthing for more liquor."
"Look ~~Injun~~ NITCHIE! see thatbottleof whiskey, well you can have that whole bottle if you will take your gun and go shoot Crowfoot. He is over at French's place now."

This was indeed a prize ~~and~~ in the eyes of the already intoxicated brave; anyhow what did he care about Crowfoot because he didnot like the Chief at anytime; but he did want that bottle of whiskey.

As he came around the front of French's cabin he saw at the door way Crowfoot contentedly smoking his red stone pipe. The drunken Indian stopped and unsteadly raised his gun. Just then Lafayette French came upon the scene and taking in the situation at a glance he knocked the gun upwards and the ball buried itself in the sod roof on the shack.

"Get out of here you drunken ~~nitchie~~ INJUN! what do you want to kill your chief for, get out of here!" and Lafayette gave him a vigorous shove that sent him sprawling. From that time onward French was known to the Indians as "He of the Lifted Arm."

Crowfoot sat there in stolid silence and continued to smoke as though nothing had happened, but he never forgot the incident and later he repaid the favor, compound interest.

A short time after this French moved out to Blackfoot Crossing and there he did a thriving business. His trading methods were considered unfair by Lord Dewdney, the Indian commissioner at the time and Dewdney insisted that French move from the reserve. French then sold out and moved back to High River.

This time (year 1830) he settled on what later became the Shorty McGlauchlin farm. He did not go back into the trading business but in conjunction with O. H. Smith he conducted a stopping place and did some stock raising.

French came here looking for Lemon Mine & traded with Indians hoping to secure information.

Phil Weinard, Buck Smith, first hand accounts all high type characters and their opinions should be more emphasized

Trading Practices

"The Indians had furs and the traders wanted those furs and hides. The traders would getttehe Indians drunk and then deal them out of their furs for some paltry thing. If the Indians objected they were shot down in co d blood. ~~This was Buck Smith's opinion of the early traders.~~ These were the methods of some of the early traders according to Buck Smith who once had been a free trader himself

Phil Weinard said, "Much has been said against these free traders but they were the trail blazers of Southern Alberta. I knew many of sterling character."

Alex Begg in his history of the North West wrote--Liguor too often paid a conspicuous part in the trading operations although the company (H B Co.) did not encourage its use as much as has been layed to its charge.

Father Scollen who had been a missionary among the Black-feet wrote in his report to the govenor of Manitoba --"The firery water flowed as freely, if I may use the metaphor as the streams running from the Rocky Mountains and hundreds of the poor Indians fell victims to the white man's cravings for money, some poisoned some frozen to death whilst in the state of intoxication, and many shot down by American (free traders) bullets. They sold their robes and their horses for it (alcohol) and now they begin killing one another so that in a short time they were divided into several small parties afraid to meet."

This is controversial. cf. Monopoly of H. B. Co. & R.C. church in North.

The effects of liquor upon the Indians was the direct reason for the enactment of the Prohibition Law in the North West and the reason why the newly formed Mounted Police Force were so determined to enforce the law in regard to liquor.

The Indians sold other things to the traders besides furs and buffalo skins. They supplied the whites with pemmican and dried meat with dressed skins for clothing and with bead work done on leather and velvet. The Indians also made chairs, hat racks and other ornaments out of buffalo horns, these things the traders sold to tourists and in the eastern markets. They did not manufacture this ornamental work of buffalo horns until after 1883. Herb Miller told me that the bead work done on early velvet was really beautiful and that sinew was used in all their early sewing work. There are a number of good collections of Indian bead work in museums but these collections contain very little work that was done with sinew. The collection of the late Harry Peach of Peachland contained many specimens of Indian work that was done prior to 1900

In return the Indians received knives guns and amunition, tobacco, tea, coffee, sugar flour and brightly colored blankets. The redskins liked the white man's tobacco for their own smoking material was supplied by drying the leaves of the wintergreen which they called kini-kin-knik. Other things to befound on the shelves of the store were beans, dried peas, dried fruits and matches. Dried fruits were always supplied in twenty-five pound boxes. Dried apples were decidedly dark in color because they were quartered and strung on strings to dry and then handled in burlap sacks. Matches came in blocks about a inch square and each match had to be broken from the base, they were made with sulphur as one ingredient and were therefore very pungent. A number of smokers using these matches soon gave a room a very sulphury odour indeed.

The Wolfers

The wolfers were a group of traders and employees who established themselves at Fort Spitzie in 1863. They were known by no other name and just who were the personnel of this group ~~I was not able to ascertain~~ except that their leaders were free traders from across the line. They were the only power in the territory and they set up a sort of provisional government stating the laws of trading, etc. In order to inforce their laws they organized a troop known as the Spitzie Cavalry, during the winter of 1870 when Howall Harris was one of the group. They were called wolfers because most of them made their living by poisining ~~and skinning~~ wolves for the hides.

In 1871 they attempted to drive out Alf Hamilton of Fort Hoop-Up (Lethbridge) but were forced to retreat in disgrace. While arguing with them Hamilton heated a poker red-hot and walked over to a barrel of powder and removed the buffalo hide cover.

"Now you Wolfers get out or we all go up together," said Hamilton.

They retreated in haste. When the story became known the Wolfers lost prestige and this was the beginning of the end of the power of the outlaws.

Kamoose

On Pine Coulee southwest of Nanton was situated another trading post owned and operated in 1874 by "Kamoose." ~~This is probably a nickname for Fred Kamouse a free trader who had operated various posts at different times in southern Alberta.~~ It was at this post that the Mounties made their first arrests; when they arrested four traders and a negro for selling whiskey to the Indians. Harry Taylor or "Old Camoose" as he was called, closed his post a few years later and in 1881 he was running a restaurant in Fort Macleod.

Indian Uses of Stone

The Indians had many uses for stone and were particularly adept in fashioning them for their own peculiar needs.

Indian life and culture might be said to belong to the Stone Age and the materials left behind by them have the same archeacological significance as Stone Age material found elsewhere.

The method or process by which the red men fashioned their arrow points, spear heads etc. is not definitely known. Missionaries and explorers must have seen them fashion these things and yet no one took the trouble to write about it. Some have suggested that they heated the stone and then dropped water on it but this is not true. A little observation and practical experience will show that a stone thus treated has an indefinite fracture and cannot be shaped at will. Some specimens of their work show a bulb of percussion like stones that have been broken by glacial action suggesting that they fashioned them by means of quick sharp blows. A method know as pressure flakeing used in the knapping of flints for old flint-lock guns has also been found to be successful in manufacturing flints of various shapes. This latter method of pressure flakeing is most likely the true explanation of how the Indians fashioned their tools, arrow points etc.

It is possible that they used wet sand as an abrasive when shaping and polishing such things as pemmican pounders, pipe bowles and stone idols. This must have been a laborous process yet they took great care to make their pounders stone axes etc. perfectly symmetrical and smoothly finished.

It has been stated that the tribes carried no idols and yet at least one has been found. A Mr. Flathers while working on the excavations of the Royalite plant, Turner Valley, uncovered an Indian grave and in it was a small stone image carved out of black slate, the facial features were clearly cut and orfices filled with a yellow clay made the eyes nose and mouth quite conspicuous.

In the making of pipes they prefered a hard smooth grain red sandstone, but sometimes they used black slate. Each artisan shaped his smoking pipe according to his own plans and design and yet al such specimens were nicely balanced. The writer once had a pipe that that was made of two different materials, lead and stone, mortised together as carefully and closely as any cabinet maker could have done it with wood.

~~(Lying before me as I write)~~ A number of Indian stone implements, ~~some~~ show h sty and indifferent workmanship, others show the mark of conscientious and patient effort. One pemmican pounder is made of sandstone and was easily fashioned but therefore it was also easily broken. ~~The~~ another pounder is made of hard granite and it must have taken a great deal of patience to shape it and cut the groove into it by which the handle was affixed. This groove around such a stone distinguishes it as a pemmican pounder regardless of its shape or the kind of rock it may have been make from.

Arrow points and spear heads are easily recognized and nearly everyone knows one of these when he sees it. However I might note that the small arrow points were used for war purposes only and the larger ones were used for hunting.

Most arrow points and spear heads are made from flint or chalcedony or occasionally agate but the most interesting ones are those fashioned from obsidian, a kind of lava. Obsidian points look as though they had been made from broken glass, some are black, some a bottle green color, and very rarely a transluscent crimson.

Other interesting tools are the skin-scrapers, these were used for fleshing and for scrapeing the hair from hides that were being tanned. One edge was always sharp but the other side was made so that it could be easily grasped. They were of various shapes one of my specimens is oval and another is wedge shape.

The Indian process of tanning produces a soft porous and pliable leather which makes very warm and comfortable garments. The brains of the animal is smeared onto the hair side of the skin to be tanned then it is rolled up and placed where it will quickly ferment. This process loosened the hair and the stone scrapers were used to remove it. The skin is then cleaned, thoroughly washed, and smoked over a green willow wood fire. Incidentally this method gives an Indian camp an unmistakeable odour.

Borers are shaped something like an arrow point only they are more slender, or they might be described as T-shaped. These were used as a gimlet for boring holes in bone, shells and even other stones. Most of the things with holes bored in them were used in some way for personal adornment. Bear claws and digit bones of animals were often bored and then strung as a necklace. A large clam shell as a neck pendant was also something to be prized.

Wherever the natives camped they left behind circles of stones some of these from ten to fifteen feet in diameter. The small circles were placed around their fires to keep it from spreading and the larger circles were the result of stones placed to keep the sides of the teepee tight to the ground. The University of Alberta has a specimen in their collection that they call a "Stake Pin Stone" but I believe that any handy stone was used for the driving of tent pegs.

Stones were also used by them in the preparation of a steam bath. They would place a number of stones in a hole in the ground in the centre of a small tent. A fire would be kindled on the stones until they were really hot, and water would then be poured over the rocks; the occupant by this means received a sweating steam bath.

Evidences of former camp sites are to be found in many places within the district; on Senator Riley's farm, on the Midway ranch and on Gladys Ridge are a few such locations. On the Blair farm about seven miles west of High River, Mr. Robins of Calgary found a number of pieces of pottery. This must have been a very old camp site; probably over sixty years ago because the Indians stopped making pottery as soon as they were able to obtain iron ware kettles from the white man .

The Stoneys were so named because they were the only tribe who did not make pottery. In order to cook their meat they dropped heated stones into skin cauldrons placed in the ground.

The Indians were very fond of bright pigments rubbed on their person and on their clothing, they obtained bright red color by burning Limonite, a form of iron; and in order to obtain this rock it was necessary to go back into the mountains not far from Windmere. Yellow ochre was another color frequently used.

Thus we see that stone played a very important part in the lives of these primitive people.

as written by Jack Wilson

Sarcees at Okotoks

Mr. Wilson was at work in his blacksmith shop fashioning a piece of material for the sawmill. Across the way, at Kenny Cameron's stopping place a freighting outfit had just pulled in and Mr. Cameron was helping the drivers to unhitch and feed their oxen. Inside the cabin Mrs. Cameron and the hired girl were busy preparing a meal for the freight drivers or "bull-whackers" as they were sometimes called. Down at the store there was piled new boxes and cans and sacks and Mr. Patterson, the store keeper was busy unpacking the new supply of goods that had come in with the freight outfit. In fact everyone in Okotoks was contentedly following his or her routine work on this quiet summer day.

And then--there galloped down over the hill and into the town a group of savage wariors. Each rider was naked except for a loin cloth and their bodies were streaked and daubed with red and yellow and white paint. With blood curdling yells, and firing their muskets into the air they swept through the town. The inhabitants were so taken by surprise that they could do nothing; but they were still more surprised to see the group go on down the trail, reign their horses to a walk and then go on apparently with no intention of coming back.

Following these young bucks was a long cavalcade of Sarcee Indians. The chieftains and elder warriors were easily recognized by their full-feathered headgear and brilliant robes and all were mounted on cayuses of many colors. Behind them came the squaws with their gaudy blanketsand bright scarfs over their heads, some were leading well laden packed ponies and others were riding horses to which were attached the trevois. Running in and out were numerous dogs and many children. Here and there was an elder girl leading a dog with a pack on its back. Sometimes a youngster of three or four years of age would be perched on top of the trevois pack. The entire Sarcee tribe had left their reserve. They were disgruntled at the loss of their freedom and this exodus was their way of showing their displeasure. But to the handful of white people in Okotoks and High River it was a trying time for no one knew when this passive resistence on the part of the Indians would turn to violence and bloodshed.

A few days later three scarlet coated Mounties escorted this tribe on their way back to the reserve. This time all was quietness & order on the procession.

On the homeward trek an incident occurred which showed the influence of Christianity among them. A minor chief had died and instead of burying him in the nearest trees or high knoll as was their usual custom they placed his body on a trevois and took it back to the reserve to be buried there.

Burial Customs

The Blackfoot tribe sometimes placed their dead on a raised platform of poles which gave rise to the following story.

"You would not think those cattle were tired by the way they trot over to investigate that old Indian grave." The speaker referred to a platform of poles and brush lashed to four posts about ten feet high and each post set firmly in the ground. The long departed Indian had been wrapped in a buffalo robe and placed on this platform.

The cattle had run up to investigate this strange thing and were sniffing and bellowing around when one big steer proceeded to rub himself on one of the upright posts. Crack! and the whole structure toppled down onto the backs of the other cattle. The frightened animals rushed away in the direction of the main herd and then without warning the whole bunch stampeded. Hi, there! lookout! get around them! and yelling, shooting, weilding ropes or slickers the cowboys endeavored to surround and mill the herd; but too late the cattle were running wild and in a few minutes they were scattered in all directions over the prairie. Late that eveing the riders straggled into camp with only a remanent of the herd. One cowboy reached for his tin plate at the chuck wagon and then vehemently and profanely expressed his opinion of Indians in general and Indian graves in particular. Then curiosity rose above his feelings of anger and he enquired:

"What do they put their dead Injuns on a rack like that for anyway?"

Another rider more versed in the ways of Indians explained that it was done so that the dead man's spirit might more easily start on its way to the Happy Hunting Grounds.

Placed the dead in the trees.

Whenever a death occurred in the vacinity of Spitzie (High River) it was a common practice with the Blackfoot tribe to hoist the body along with many of its possessions into a high tree. After a time many a treasure fell to the ground and the Sexsmith children used to gather many of these relics.

"Look mummy! look what we got, said one of the girls, running into the house to show her mother a handful of arrow points and a clam shell with two holes bored into it. Mrs. Sexsmith stopped and asked:"Where did you kids get that Indian junk."

"Why we got it down along the river where the Indians put their dead people," was the reply.

"What! have you children been robbing Indian graves, why the Indians will murder us all" exclamed the horrified Mrs. Sexsmith.

At this point Mr. Sexsmith came to their rescue to explain that the children had found these things under the big cottonwood trees where the Indians had hoisted their dead. By and by the blanket in which the body was wrapped would decay and bones and relics would fall to the ground. The Indians did not attach any particular sanctity to these burial trees but they always avoided them because of their superstitious fear of the dead.

Some of the big cottonwood trees in what is now the High River park contained such gruesome parcels at one time and also at the old ford east of Okotoks were several burial trees.

Sometimes Left dead in a Wigwam

Several of the Indain tribes sometimes left their dead in a wigwam. The deceased was left sitting in an upright position and facing east, around him were neatly placed all his treasures and belongings. The tent door was then carefully closed. Short McGlauchlin once used this trait of Indian nature al a means to get rid of an newcomer whom everyone disliked.

* In the clearing back of Shorty's stood an Indian teepee, and in it was a dead Indian, a big chief. After the Indian custom the chief had been braced upright in a sitting position, just so. But quite dead the toll of nature. Region of the Waters.

Shorty discovered this and a great plan dawned. He inveigled the newcomer to a little target practice to prepare for the inevitable day when he would be obliged to protect himself against the terrible redman. Nothing loath for he had heard some scalp-raising tales the tenderfoot placed himself under Shorty's care. They edged off to the clearing and Shorty suggested for a target a tree in the general direction of the tepee. Bang went the revolver. You've got to be careful warned Shorty you came pretty close to that tepee that time. We'd better have a look." Stepping over they lifted the tent flap. There w s the chief erect but unmistakeably dead. Now you have done it groaned Shorty. One wild look was all that the newcomer needed. All his cockyness had vanished. "Save me, Save me" he cried.

"Well now" said Shorty I'll do all I can to hold them off, but you haven't long. Burn the trail as fast and as far as you can go. You haven't much start so get going."

The newcomer did so and has never been back.

Dead body served as pt. of interest for sightseeing all winter - Summer later cut the chiefs head off as a trophy + this with [illegible] almost brought [illegible] to the attachment of the Crossing.

A few years after the incidents just related the influence of the missionaries began to make itself felt and about 1890 the Indians started to follow the white man's way of underground internment. Permanent graveyard were established at the reservations but quite often they used some high knoll near by their camp whenever death overtook one of their number.

There are two such Indian graves on the high hills to the north of Sam Smith's ranch. Such high points were used for the same reason they used the platforms or trees; to help the departed spirit be close to its future home.

* 25th Anniversary Edition Big Fork Times

How the Tribes Were Named

In a former article I have already told you of how the Stoney Indians got their name form their use of stones in their method of cookery.

There are at least two reasons given for the use of the name 'Blackfoot.' MacRea, in his 'History of Alberta,' writes that the other tribes gave the "Blackfeet" this name because their mocassins were soiled by the black humus soil of the north where this tribe originated from as Slave Indians, but of Algonquin stock. The other reason for this name as given by Donald Grey, and old timer, who lived among the Blackfoot for a time, is that this tribe went on the warpath painted one leg from the knee down a jet black. ~~Personally I consider~~ Mr. Grey's explanation ~~as being the most likelies~~ the correct reason.

Mr. Grey also said that the Blood Indians were so called because they painted one arm a blood red when preparing for war.

Abskinas

Ab. Skinas as his name should be spelt was a type of intellegent Indian who realized the change that had come over his land and who took to the white man's ways as the most sensible proceedure. The story of his name is interesting. When an Indian woman names her child she calls it after the first thing that meets her vision immediately after the childs birth. In his case the first thing his mother saw was a common parasite, and so he was called "Skinas" meaning louse. "Ab" was the name he took himself as a first name.

For many years he lived around High River and his children were educated in the High River school. He took whatever odd jobs he could get in order to earn a living and he was much in demand as a hunting guide. He lived in High River until his wife died in 1910 and then he went out to the reserve at Gleichen where he died some years later.

Today there are living at Crowfoot two families having the name Skinas who are the descendants of Ab. Skinas. ~~His~~ His eldest son Jack lived in the east was not dead a few years after or the Blackfoot Crossing Jack went to school in High River.

History of Ranching

The first cattle wintered in southern Alberta were the property of Howell Harris. After he had established his trading post at High River he turned his freighting oxen loose to forage for themselves and they did well that winter of 1871. The following May he hitched them up again and drove them back to Fort Benton. The Indians did not bother these cattle because there were still plenty of buffalo.

To Fred Kanouse of Macleod goes the honor of being the first to go into the stock raising business. The Maunsells, Captain Winder, Robert Patterson and others quickly followed his lead but they were doomed to disappointment because of the depredations of the Indians during the winter of 1879 and the next spring they took their cattle back across the line into Montana.

The Indians were starving and George Emerson forsaw that domestic beef would have to supplant buffalo pemmican for both white men and red. George Emerson and Tom Lynch went to Montana and purchases a bunch of cattle branded HW. These they sold to the police and to settlers around Macleod. They sold this stock at very low prices receiving only nineteen dollars per cow and calf, thirteen dollars for yearling steers and twelve dollars for yearling heifers. But even at these prices they found the importing of cattle a lucrative business and these men were the first drovers in Alberta.

In 1880 the government decided that the time was ripe to encourage settlement of the North West Territories. They passed a regulation whereby settlers could obtain a lease up to one hundred thousand acres at a cent an acre for a period of twenty-one years. George Emerson and Tim (Domonic) Lynch took advantage of this new law and obtained in 1881 a small lease where is now the Round T Ranch just west of High River.

Fred Stimpson settled along side Emerson and Lynch during the same year.

Down the river a few miles, where is now ~~the Highwood ranch~~ Senator Riley's house in High River John Quirk settled and brought in about two hundred head of cattle. His brand was the letterQ. Quirk did not stay long at High River but about 1883 he moved up to Kew on Sheep River. In 1912 he sold out to P. Burns who shorty afterwards sold to the Kendall Cattle Co.

In Kelly's book "The Rangemen" he states that by the fall of 1883 there were thirty thousand head of stock in southern Alberta and during the big roundup of the following year almost twice that many were counted.

The Government imposed a duty on all cattle coming into Canada to take effect in the fall of 1886 and of course there was a rush to get stock in here before the duty was put on. These great herds were simply turned loose to shift for themselves and they fattened and increased until the hard winter of 1886-87. Thousands of head died that winter and every ranch lost from fifty to seventy-five per cent of their stock. This taught the ranchers a severe lesson and they all began the practice of putting up some hay for feed during stormy weather.

The ranchers imported breeding stock from other countries and attempted various crosses in an effort to get hardy stock that would stand the winters of our climate. Long haired Highland cattle were brought in from Scotland but they did not prove popular.

Aberdeen Angus stock was found to be fairly satisfatorly and the influence of this breed is still noticed throughout the country. The Gregg brothers of Nanton brought in a shipment of pure bred Hereford cattle direct from England in the year 1886. ~~Mr. Henry Sheppard was in charge of this shipment and after they were delivered to the Gregg's Mr. Sheppard decided to make his home here.~~ These cattle were placed on their ranch (now owned by R. L. MacMillan) and no doubt these were the first Herefords in Alberta. Today the Herefords or White Faces are looked upon as the best type of range beef cattle.

Another effort to meet the market reguirements was the introduction of the Gallaway breed. There seems to be some dispute as to who first introduced thes hardy little Scotch cattle but the honor probably goes to the Cochrane Ranch. The first pure bred Galloway bull was brought into the sheep River district by E. A. Dagget and sold to Mr. McTavish in 1896.

Those who first entered into the cattle business had to depend on a limited local market. The government bought some to give to the Indians and the police force used a few. The I. G. Baker Trading Co. also bought a fair amount of beef for their employees. Then the building crews on the railroad required a large amount of meat and the Bar U Ranch alone disposed of one thousand head to the C. P. R. in 1883. These cattle were driven across country to the various points where the railway work was being done and were slaughtered there. Directly after the North West Rebellion the ranchers began shipping their stock to the eastern markets and to the Old Countyy. This market required big, fat four-year-old steers and the ranches were by this time sufficiently established to supply large quantities of this type. For the next ten or twelve years the Old Country was a good outlet for our beef and the ranchers prospered. Then the British authorities placed an embargo on Canadian cattle claiming that our cattle brought hoof and mouth disease. Wherever those infected cattle came from it certainly was not from western Canada as the disease is unknown here; nevertheless the enbargo brought about disatrously low prices for some years and many ranchers were forced out of business.

Low prices were not the only troubles to face, blizzards and deep snows often caused heavy losses. An instance of this was in 1892 when it began to snow the twenty-eighth of March and snowed steadily for three weeks. Most ranchers lost considerable stock at this time even though they had feed at hand. The winter of 1906-7 was also a very hard winter and every outfit took heavy losses again that year.

Another difficulty was the loss of range grass and sometimes live stock by prairie fires. One of the worst fires was in Nov. of 1896 when a fire swept the whole country from the Belly River northward to the Bow. Mr Lane and others lost many horses in this fire.

As the country settled up and farms replaced the open range the large outfits went out of business and only those with leases in the foothils were able to maintain there hold and today the last ranching is confined to the hills country.

The story of ranching has been told a number of times but this is written as a brief resume of it as applied to Big Horn Basin area. To narrate these events would place more emphasis on the deeds of a few or favored type of stock, or the effect of politics on the ranching industry. The end of the Cattle Barons Association [illegible]

So we see that the ranchers luck was not all romance and fun as it has so often been depicted; but rather it was a serious business with its ups and downs. Yet those who went through those days either as cowboys or as ranchers look back on their experiences as well worth while.

Modern Ranching

With the coming of the farmer and the homesteader the days of free range in which the cattle companies exulted were past.

Grazing grounds became restricted and it was found necessary to provide winter feed. Thus changes in the ranching system automatically came about. Each year saw the passing of some famous herd, while smaller operators better able to provide for the stock have been on the increase.

Today the tendency is "quality not quantity." Nothing but purebred bulls of the best type are used on the ranches, and the producer of commercial beef cattle, must of necessity keep constant watch on the cost of raising his beef, the types which bring best returns, and the popular market demands.

Gone of the days of the four-year old beef, so far as the present demand is concerned and the rancher finds the yearlings and the two-year olds are the age wanted. With the necessity for winter feeding, the cost of putting beef on the market is considerable, and the aim is to feed properly and turn off early either as baby beef or two-year olds. In this way the producer can carry about one-third more cattle on the same plant.

The beef type which seems particularly adapted to the the requirements of the southern Alberta ranchers is a cross between Shorthorn and Hereford. The finest type of bulls are selected and the results of this cross is much favored.

The superior class of commercial beef being produced in this district is proven by the showing made by our exhibits at the stock shows where they have won many coveted awards, by their high standing on the Chicago markets, and by the favorable impression in the Old Country.

From the Aniversary Edition High River Times

History of the Bar U Ranch and its early neighbors

I have noted that in 1881 Fred Stimpson brought in a bunch of horses and settled on what is now part of the Round T Ranch just west of High River. These horses were the property of the North West Cattle Co.a concern which was financed by the Allens of Montreal and who had applied for a lease at the time the government had first thrown the country open for leasing.

The land chosen by Mr. Stimpson for the main lease was on the south fork of the Highwood and became the permanent home of the North West Cattle Co. better known now as the Bar U.

"Boys" said Mr Stimpson,"we are going to locate definitely upon the South fork and we will need some hay up there for our saddle horses and some buildings put up. George (George Emerson) suppose you take Phil (Phil Weinard) and Jim (Jim Minesenger) and start to work up there." So on a hot day in July of 1882 these men started haying on the Bar U hay flats.

There building work was delayed for various reasons and it was not until Christmas Day that Jim Minesenger and George Emerson finished the living quarters. Even then the house could hardly be called finished for a blanket hung where the door should have been and the floor was the prairie sod.

"Well boys home was never like this but we're going to move in anyway." Suiting the action to his word, Fred Stimpson and his crew of ten men settled dow to make it their living quarters for the rest of the winter.

John Ware (Nigger John) looked around the shack and said: "Down East dey would think this 'ere was a chicken pen but it shore looks wa'm a d comf'ft'ble to me right now."

"[redacted]," he offered the opinion.

"Hey cook," this from Tom Lynch, "what do we get to celebrate on, plum pudding?"

"No! beans and bacon and flapjacks is all you get," growled the cook.

"My gosh! we have had beans ever since we left Idaho in May, and he aint run out of beans yet."

"Maybe we can have baby beef," said a voice from another corner.

This was an allusion to the fact that Jim Minesinger had nearly been fired for killing a purebred Shorthorn bull for meat.

During the summer Herb Miller had brought in Twenty-one yearling Shorthorn bulls and when Minesinger and Emerson found themselves short of supplies these were the only available cattle belonging to the company; but it did not matter to those men they were going to have meat anyway.

Tom Lynch who had been appointed as purchasing agent for the North West Cattle Company had acquired three thousand head down at Lost River in Idaho. In May of '82 he began the long trek to Alberta and they arrived at Fred Stimpson's in September. Soon after their arrival an early blizzard came up and drove all the cattle as well as those belonging to John Quirk and O.H. Smith right back to Macleod. It snowed for eight days and there was three feet of snow on the level. As soon as the storm was over the men began the work of rounding the cattle up again and this time they were driven up to the lease in the foothills and left in the Mosquito Creek district.

It was while they were at Lost River that Nigger John joined the outfit. He was given an old saddle and a very quite horse the first day. Next day he remarked: "Boss, if I had a little better saddle and a little wus' hoss, I think I could ride him." His wish was promptly complied with and he was given a good saddle and the worst horse they had. Right there and then he showed them that he could ride.

The next year (1883) several other large oufits put stock on the range and the Bar U was no longer alone in this part. John R. Craig had now obtained sufficient backing to begin stocking the Oxley Ranch on Mosquito Creek and he brought in twenty-five hundred head of cattle from Montana. The Ings brothers bought Smith's cattle and the OH brand, and established their Rio Alto Ranch on the North fork of the Highwood. Adjoining the Bar U was the HL Ranch owned by Mr. Leavings. It was known as the Mount Head Ranch and its buildings and corrals were built by Dan Riley during the summer of '83. The I. G. Baker people had cattle down on the Little Bow and they were under contract to supply meat to the government to feed the Indians. Billy Buckley was the manager of their beef herd and their brand was a large circle O. The same brand was carried by the Conrad Cattle Co. a subsidiary of the I. G. Baker Co. and Howell Harris was Manager of this Circle Ranch. Costigan and J. W. Short held a lease of fifty-nine thousand acres south east of the Bar U but they did not stock it. They could not sell it and so threw it up the next year.

John Barter, a former H.B. co. employee settled on Sheep River at what is now known as the Big Rock. His place was the nucleus for the Quron Ranch and he was its first manager. In the fall of '83 they had a nice herd of cattle branded with a Z on the right ribs.

This same year W.H. Hull brought a large herd of horses, branded EX, in from British Columbia and he sold some of them to the Bar U. One of the riders with these horses was the man who is now known to the ranching fraternity as 7U Brown.

The North West Cattle co. quickly increased its stock and while Fred Stimpson acted as manager Abe Cotterel was appointed as foreman. Tom Lynch was the first wagon boss for the Bar U outfit when it went out on the big round-up of 1884. A round-up had also been held the year before. It was while on this round-up of 1884 that Fred Stimpson went into Macleod and brought out George Lane who had come from Montana, and who had been recommended to the Allen's as an expert stockman. In the fall of '84 Mr. Lane took over the foremanship of the ranch, which now comprised fifty-nine acres and had around 5000 head of stock. Their first sale of cattle was in 1884 when they sold one thousand head to A. Semples for the C.P.R., at seventy-five dollars per head.

Everything went well with the Co. until the hard winter of 1886. A big snowstorm came on September 15 and the last storm of the season was in June of 1887. Such a long seige of winter weather was disastrous to the Bar U and also the rest of the ranchers. Only twenty-five per cent of the stock came through the winter and the Bar U lost thousands of head.

For a description of the round-up of 1887 we will use the words of A.E. Cross.

"The big round-up of June 1887, after the most distrous winter ever experienced in the cattle ranching history of North America.

"A description of the Bar U outfit would be incomplete without a very noted old-timer, the late George Emerson, the pilot who always rode in front of the wagons and horses on a strong gentle horse, showing where to camp and get water. George was the expert calf marker, cutting the under half bit from one ear and the under half crop on the other to perfection. George Emerson was one of the oldest pioneers of the district."

From 1887 onward all the ranchers put up some hay, the Bar U was particularly fortunate in this respect as they had a very large hay flat close to their buildings.

Mr. George Lane severed connections with the ranch and went into the commission business for himself in 1889. He handled about two trainloads of cattle that year and sold them to the Van Valkinburgs a meat retailing concern at the coast. Most of these cattle came from the Bar U herds. The following year Mr. Lane acted as purchasing agent for the Government at the Blood reserve, then in the fall of the same year he bought the Flying E ranch.

And now we turn our attention to the founding of the famous herd of purebred Percheon horses. The first Percheons brought in were a number of grade Percheons of fair quality and branded half diamond O. They sold the bulk of these but at every opportunity after this they obtained good horses of this breed. These first Percheons were added to the ranch in 1895.

As the years went by the North West Cattle co. continued to prosper. They met the usual viscitudes of the ranching business, such as prairies fires, low prices, spring storms and disease; yet the owners had reason to feel optimistic in regard to their venture. Herb Miller who had been with the outfit since its inception was appointed foreman in 1902.

The next big change was in 1904 when George Lane in conjunction with the firm of Gordon, Ironsides and Fares bought the Bar U from the Allens. Lane took over the outfit at an upset price of three hundred thousand dollars, no count was made of the cattle but these were estimated at four thousand head. George Lane was now acting manager and he proceeded to build up the horse herd. They had no difficulty in disposing of the better class of horses but Lane foresaw that the time would come when they must have the best in order to realize a profit. So he purchased a number of Purebred Percheon mares from the Riverside Ranch in Dakota. The same year (1907) he told Herb Miller that he had decided to send to France for a carload of Purebred Percheon Stallions. Mr. Lane and Mr. Miller were in High River at the time. Lane who was very peremetory at all times said: "Here is money enough and I want you to start today for France.

"No," replied Herb Miller, "I could not start for a week at least, I would have to go back to the ranch and get things straightened out and get the haying outfits arranged." Lane chewed his moustache for a while and said nothing. A few days later Alex Fleming and W.B. Thorne left for France to bring back the first bunch of purebred French stallions. The following year (1908) Alex Fleming took over the management of the horses. Already the call for real quality horses had increased so that the Bar U were unable to meet the demand.

Alex Fleming went to France for another carload of stallions. None of these latter reached the ranch as they were put in the Spring Horse Show at Calgary of 1909 soon after being unloaded there and that carload brought ten thousand dollars.

The home ranch at Pekisko was found to be the best place for raising horses as there they had the least losses from joint ill or navel disease. More than usual losses were experienced one year so they built twenty-six box stalls as foaling stalls. These were kept clean and absolutely sanitary but it was found that they had better luck by leaving the mares out in the pasture fields. An example of the quality of their stuff was shown in a horse they sold to Mr. Dunham, it weighed fourteen hundred pounds when only fourteen months old.

When Alex Fleming left the ranch in 1924 they had over five hundred head of pure bred Percheon horses, every one of which had its registered number branded on its neck. Small copper irons were used for this purpose and the result was a small but plain marking. Such was the fame of Bar U percheons that they sold breeding stock to England, Japan and U. S. as well as to Canadian horsemen.

There are many who will remember the magnificent six-horse team that they used to exhibit at all the fairs. Alex Fleming had the honor of driving this team which won many prizes in Canada and the U.S. Mr. Fleming accompanied all exhibits at all times and it was his care and showmanship which helped them to win their many awards.

The Company did not confine their attention to draft Percheons alone but put considerable time and money into raising a good type of saddle horses. Their first effort in this line was in 1883 when Stimpson purchased a French Canadian stallion called "Bruce". This horse was unloaded at Medicine Hat and led from there to the Bar U ranch. Louis Gerrief and Bob Dixon who had come as attendants to this horse remained to work for the company. Seven U Brown was given charge of the saddle horse herd. There were times when he had seven stallions to look after as well as ride ~~after~~ for the ~~other~~ horses.

The Bar U also bought (in 1887) some colts from Hat field who was using a thoroughbred stallion called "Quint Jessamine". This improved their stock considerably and they sold a large number of horses to the police for remounts. The police paid one hundred and twenty-five dollars a piece for any horses that they purchased. Ther was a keen demand for good saddle horses and all the ranchers made every effort to breed up their stock. The Quorn ranch alone imported at one time three hundred thoroughbred Irish Hunter mares.

The police commissioner would pick out what horses he desired and then the ranch hands would break and ride each horse three times. They were then considered gentle enough to turn over to the police force. After the police had used them for a time they were passed on to the army and so there was a continuous demand.

As the country settled up the demand for good draft horses increaded and the raising of saddle horses has dropped back to a minor place.

Mr. Lane while building up the horse herds did not neglect the cattle end of the business. One of his first efforts was to trade a bunch of horses for a herd of Highland cattle down in Manitoba. When brought to the ranch these cattle did fairy well but were not popular with the beef buyers. Also he bought many carloads of young cattle from Ontario. These "doggies" were mostly of Durham breed and did well on the western ranges. Another time Mr. Lane purchased five thousand head of Mexican steers with the idea that these Texas longhorns would be ideal as range cattle.

But this latter venture did not prove so profitable, because of the losses incurred in transit. It was on May 21, 1903 that the first trainload of these cattle reached High River. Herb Miller was there to meet them but nothing could be done because a terrible blizzard was raging. It was snowing when the train left Macleod and by the time it reached Claresholm it was necessary to leave several cars behind. From then on the train was bucking deep snowdrifts and with each jolt the cattle were all knocked down in the cars. By the time the train reached High River most of the cattle were dead. The third trainload of dead ~~or~~ and maimed cattle had reached High River before. Mr. Lane was able to get into town. When Lane arrived the first thing he asked Herb Miller was: "Have you paid the freight on these cattle?"

"No," was Miller's reply.

"Then let the C.P.R. have them," was Lane's summing up of the situation. This meant the Railway Co. was forced to unload and bury many hundreds of cattle. They were thrown beside the track just south of town and then covered with lime.

Such viscissitudes as this did not in the least deterr Mr. Lane and his partners and the Ranch maintained its integrity as a straight ranching concern in a country that quickly turned to farming. And Mr. Lane maintained his faith in ranching business up until his death in 1925.

Since then it has been owned and operated by Senator Pat Burns who is another old-time cattle man whose large holdings now maintain thirty thousand head of stock.

When George Lane bought the Bar U in 1904 an interesting point occurred which is worth recording here. Mr. Lane's own horse brand had been a quarter circle above a cross(7) and he decided to use this as the horse brand for all the horses and to maintain the Bar Ubrand for all the cattle. By some mistake this quarter circle cross brand was also being used by another man at Macleod. Alex Fleming was commissioned to obtain for Lane the exclusive right to this brand. The other party was vey reasonable in the matter. Fleming purchased and recorded a new brand for the man and the total expense to Lane was only fifty-five dollars.

In the spring of this present year (1935) Herb Miller who had seen service with the outfit for tifty-two years was superannuated and the Bar U lost its most faithful servant.

So I will close in regard to history of the ranch itself with a few lines taken from the Calgary Stampede programme of 1919. "From one end of the Dominion to the other the fame of the Bar U ranch has spread until a visit to the West without a sojourn at that ranch would be as tame and unprofitable as a trip to Egypt without seeing the Pyramids."

Much of the information in this article was given me personally by Herb Miller & Alex Fleming

J. Nicol Johnson

First Cattle for the Old Country

The Bar U made the first shipment of cattle to Montreal to be consigned to England. The shipment comprised three trainloads, in all seven hundred and fifty head. When they reached Montreal the wharf authorities did not have the proper facilities for handling wild stock. So a chute was built from the track down into the wharf sheds and from there another chute was built down which the cattle could be driven into the hold of the boat. The deck hands thought that they could put ropes and halters on these cattle when they were in thw wharf sheds but the men soon changed their minds on this subject after the first try. However in the confined spaces and semi-dark ~~semi-darkness~~ of the shipnold the cattle were more tractable and were finally tied up. Those who went to Montreal with this shipment were, Herb Miller, Hunter Powell, Angus Sparrow, Ed McArthur, George Lane and Mr. Tipton.

The Round-Up

"The High River Stock Association decided to commence the spring round-up on June 8. The round-up covers the district between Sheep River, The Bow, Belly and Old Man rivers, and six outfits will be employed. They will work between forty thousand and fifty thousand head of cattle. Each outfit consists of from ten to twenty riders a cook, a day and night herder, grub and bed wagons and from five to seven horses for each rider. They outfit for six weeks."

The above quotation from the "Nor' West Farmer" of 1904, gives some idea of the area covered but does not tell of the work itself. And work it was! The story books try to give the impression that a round-up was some sort of amusing holiday but every old time cowman knows that it was heavy work with now and then its lighter moments.

The round-up was to the rancher what harvest time is to the farmer; it was then that he counted his gains or losses.

The largest round-up ever held started out on the 25th of May 1884. There were one hundred men in the outfit and Jim Dunlop was the captain. There were fifteen wagons which represented almost that many outfits a decade. Because each man required several horses for the summer work there were over 500 saddle horses. This outfit rounded up 60 000 head of cattle.

The wagon boss of the Bar U outfit was Tom Lynch and the horse wrangler was Jagger John Ware.

The boss of the Bow City outfit was Hunter Powell, Jimmy Johnson was the wrangler, Jigger Green was their cook. This outfit was the first to go down into the country between the Old Bow & the Old Man Rivers. It was here that the following incident occured, when all their saddle horses got away. Before morning Hunter Powell, a half breed, brought all the horses quietly back to camp.

Brand Records.

Brands were used from the very beginning when stock were introduced into Alberta. Brands had been used across the line for many years and of course the custom was adopted here. There was no record of any of the Canadian brands until the year 1887, when the Henderson Printing Co. of Winnipeg sent a man through all of the West to catalogue all the brands in use and get information in regard to the ranches using them. The material gathered by him was used in the first "brand book" to be printed in Canada. The next book was printed by the government after the brand recording offices were established in 1888

The man they sent out was no greenhorn and yet he nearly got drowned in Mosquito Creek while trying to cross over to the 76 ranch. (Fred Ings place now) Some of the 76 riders saved him.

25	1883	Twenty five	Jas Lemmon	North of right [illegible]	
25	1886	[illegible]	[illegible]	West of [illegible]	
9999 19	1889	Two crows	Geo. [illegible] Ware	Sheep [illegible]	
⌐	1886.	Lazy L	John Linham	Short fork	
	1886		Donald Gray	[illegible]	
F	1886	F	[illegible]		
Ψ	[illegible]	[illegible]	Godfrey & Levine		

Early Brands – [illegible]

Brand	Date Est	Designation	Original Owner	[illegible]	Present Owner
U	188[illegible]	Box U	[illegible] Cattle Co	[illegible] ?	L P Burns
TL	1883	Tee L	Tom Lynch	Sullivan Creek	Sullivan Valley
O	188[illegible]	circle [illegible]	J. G. Baker Co.	[illegible] Bow	
[illegible]	188[illegible]	[illegible] P	[illegible] Emerson	Birch [illegible] ?	[illegible]
2.	1885	Two [illegible]	[illegible]	Kroguito Creek	[illegible]
D–	188[illegible]	Box Bar	[illegible]	[illegible]	
U	[illegible]	Seven U	Seven U Brown	[illegible] Creek	Brown
A7	188[illegible]	A Seven	A E Cross	[illegible]	Cross Estate
[illegible]	188[illegible]	Keystone	[illegible]	[illegible] Creek	[illegible]
OH	188[illegible]	[illegible] H	OH [illegible]	[illegible] ?	[illegible]
H2	188[illegible]	2 Bar	[illegible]	[illegible] Bow [illegible]	[illegible]

Brand	Date Set	Designation	Original Owner	Range	Remarks
IS	1886	I.S.	J. [illegible]	[illegible] and adjacent	—
Z	1883	Zee	John Baxter (Sun Ranch)	Sheep Creek	—
ZR	1881	Z R	John Baxter	Sheep Creek	—
Q	1882	Keno	[illegible] Smith	Sheep Creek at Keno	—
XC	1886	Exe Cee	[illegible] & Johnston	Grayson and	Jack Lemmon
76	1886	Seventy six	[illegible]	Grayson and	—
OX	1882	Oxbow	Oxbow Ranch Co.	Oxbow Creek	—
IL	1887	I L	J. Burns	Fish Creek	J. Burns
V	1883	V	Quinn Ranch	Sheep Creek	—
Y	1889	Pitchfork	Hyde & Rose (Horse Ranch) (Mt. Meadows)	Grayson Fish	—
XY	1886	Ex Y	[illegible] Orford	Mile Box	—
Ψ	1887	Pitchfork	Charles Brown	Lower [illegible]	—

STORY OF E. P. RANCH

During the summer of 1883, Mrs. Bedingfeld and her son Frank came to High River. They went to the Bar U ranch and for over a year they stayed with its manager, Mr. Fred Simpson. Here they learned the business of ranching and then in the spring of 1885 they stocked a lease they had obtained about two miles above the Bar U. They built a set of good buildings and corrals and definitely made their home there on Pekisko creek. Some years later Mrs. Bedingfeld retired and went back to England but Frank continued to operate the well established ranch.

In 1919 the Prince of Wales who was making a tour of the west visited the Bar U ranch. He was so taken with our foothills country that he expressed his desire to own a ranch. Mr. George Lane conferred with Mrs. Bedingfeld and the deal was made that the Prince should buy the Bedingfeld ranch. ~~It was Mr. Carlyle, who was acting as manager of the Bar U at the time who really suggested that the Prince buy the Bedingfeld place.~~ Mr. Carlyle accepted the position as manager of the Prince of Wales new ranch estate consisting of four thousand acres.

The place has since been stocked with cattle, horses and sheep of especial quality from the Prince's estate in England. The stock from the E. P. ranch has taken many prizes at Canadian Fairs and has been a good influence on our own livestock.

As soon as the land became the property of the Prince of Wales, the old brand was discarded and the new brand E. P. was recorded. The ranch then became known as the E. P. ranch.

CHRONOLOGY OF FARMING

1879 John Glenn, our first farmer broke four and one half acres at Dunbow Crossing (2 miles straight east of Okotoks). He seeded this to oats and barley. As he had no implements he sowed the grain broadcast by hand and harvested this crop with a scythe.

1880 Alexander Begg started sheep-ranching at the Dunbow Crossing just across the Highwood from where John Glenn was farming.

1881 French and Smith broke the first sod in the vicinity of High River.

1882 (1) French and Smith sowed their grain broadcast by hand and then they plowed the ground again. They got a fairly good crop that year although the summer was dry. They used a mower to cut their crop but in order to thresh it they were obliged to spread the sheaves in the corral and drive a bunch of horses around over the sheaves until the grain was threshed from the straw.

(2) Their garden was especially good that year and they stored their crop of vegetables (potatoes, turnips and carrots) in a root-house.

(3) John Glenn sold two thousand dollars worth of cabbages from his irrigated garden.

(4) The first threshing outfit in southern Alberta was brought in by Sam Livingstone. He hauled it overland from winnipeg and was obliged to build rafts to ferry it across the rivers.

(5) The C. P. R. advertised land for sale at two dollars and fifty cents per acre.

1883 Dan Riley brought some seed potato s from Fort Benton and planted them near the Blackfoot trail. They produced a good crop but the Indians harvested them and stole the crop.

1884 (1) French and Smith dug the first practical irrigation ditch in southern Alberta and diverted water from the Highwood.

(2) Snake fences built of poplar poles were still standing in good condition surrounding French and Smith's field.

(3) The first pig brought into southern Alberta was brought in by these same two men.

(4) The Cochrane ranch shipped an up-to-date threshing machine into Calgary and took it out to their ranch. Charlie Jackson bought this machine and also purchased an upright steam engine from Col. Walker. Both engine and thresher had to be hauled from place to place with horses.

(5) Donald Grey went into sheep ranching on a large scale, eight miles west of Okotoks.

(6) Fred Ings and Dan Riley came in from the roundup to help Buck Smith thresh his crop of oats. The machine did not work satisfactorily.

(7) Robt. Findlay threshed part of his crop of oats by using a flail.

1885 (1) Charlie Jackson and Han Clarke in partnership did nearly all the threshing from Calgary southward and down the Little Bow.

(2) Wm Alley hauled oats from north of where Aldersyde is now to Fort Benton, Mont.

(3) O. H. Smith of High River bought a reaper (not a binder).

(4) A carload of pigs was shipped into Calgary and sold to farmers around. These were the first breeding pigs in southern Alberta. A. E. Bannister bought four sows and a boar at a cost of $125.00. Each sow farrowed nine pigs and at six weeks they were sold for six dollars each.

(5) A. E. Bannister of Davisburg started growing "New Century" oats.

(6) "Early Egyptian" was another variety of white oats introduced also at this time.

1886 (1) Robt. Findlay bought Smith's reaper and Smith bought a Brantford binder.

(2) Jack Sheilds of Sheep Creek (Okotoks) purchased a Massey Harris binder. He used it to cut the crops of A. E. Cross and the Powder River Cattle Co. of Lanton.

(3) Very heavy yields caused Stock Growers' Assocn. to hold a meeting and they decided to grow no more grain as they were afraid the publicity would bring in too many settlers.

(4) J. W. Short turned twelve pigs loose at the Big Lake as he had no grain to feed them. In the fall the pigs were so wild he had to shoot them to get his pork.

(5) Butter fifty cents a pound.

1887 Jim Andrews of Davisburg purchased a Massey Harris binder.

1888 W. R. Hull of the 25 ranch threshed fifty acres of oats that yielded 125 bushels per acre. The threshing was done by Sam Livingstone with his horse power driven thresher.

1889 (1) This year marked the beginning of the dry years.

(2) The Toronto Light Binder was introduced and one was purchased by Ed. Macleod of Sheep Creek (Okotoks).

(3) Ed. Macleod also purchased Charlie Jacksons threshing outfit as there was now sufficient work for a machine from Sheep Creek southward.

(4) Weanling pigs were now only worth $2.00 each.

1890 (1) John Irving of Davisburg sowed a small acreage of wheat. Although broadcast sown by hand and then harrowed it was a successful crop of good quality.

(2) A colony of Mennonites settled at where Nazenna is now. They left again in 1896 because of drought and frost. Not even potatoes would mature in that district at that time.

(3) Ed. Macleod and Jack Sheilds of Okotoks hauled their oats to Macleod and sold to the H. B. M. P. They purchased more grain at 20 cents a bushel and sold it to the Mounties for 60 cents a bushel.

1891 (1) Ward, on Tongue Creek, had fifty acres of wheat which yielded 50 bushels per acre. It was threshed with a horse-power thresher which required 12 horses to supply the power. He had to haul his wheat to Calgary which was then the only market for wheat.

(2) Robt. Burns of Davisburg brought in the first seed drill. It was a hoe press seeder of Van Brunt make.

(3) A. E. Rowland brought in the first gang plow to his farm near where Aldersyde is now.

(4) The wheat grown at this time was a pure bred variety of grain and was probably Early Red Fife wheat.

1892 First weed seeds scattered by feed supplies used by the contractors building the railroad between Calgary and Macleod.

1893 (1) Still dry years with many destructive prairie fires.

(2) Eggs 10 cents a dozen, butter 15 cents a pound.

1894 Crops yielded only five bushels per acre. Grasshoppers and wind did considerable damage.

1895 Farmers obtained seed grain through the government but it was a poor class of stuff and was full of weed seeds. Stinkweed and wild oats were spread at this time.

This was no free relief system like we have now, the farmer who wished to obtain seed grain had to give a lien on his land.

1896 (1) This year was so dry that rye grain sown on summerfallow did not sprout until the spring of 1897.

(2) R. A. Wallace and Windlays dug an irrigation ditch to take water from the Highwood to irrigate their crops and new lands. A. E. Rowland, Aldersyde, and the Highwood Ranch, High River, also built irrigation projects.

1897 This was a wet year and the Big Lake began to fill up again. The Highwood river ran in heavy flood and pigs belonging to Lafayette French were washed on top of a straw stack.

1898 Lakes filled up and plenty of moisture.

1901 Smut very prevalent as very few farmers had adopted methods of smut prevention.

1902 This was the wettest year on record as there was 30.2 inches of rainfall. Grain grew to an enormous length and was not harvested until October.

1903 The country was now fast settling up and hundreds of homesteads were being taken up every month.

1904 (1) At this time Dr. E. S. Thompson introduced "Turkey Red" wheat. This was a variety of fall wheat which was popular in Utah and the western states. This variety proved so successful that seed from this district was shipped back to Utah and designated as the variety "Alberta Red Wheat". Mr. Thompson supplied this seed to farmers on a share basis but specified that it must be sown on new breaking and that a double disc seeder drill must be used. Despite the success of this variety, only 190,000 bushels of fall wheat were grown in Alberta this year.

(2) Spring varieties of wheat were not popular because of early frosts and generally inclement seasons for the growing of wheat

(3) Marquis wheat was developed during 1904 but it took two years of experimenting before its advantages were shown for this part of Alberta.

(4) Daniel Wenger and Sam Gehman purchased the first thresher in this district with a blower attached. Prior to this all threshing machines had used a conveyer generally spoken of as a straw carrier.

1909 The first grain to be shipped over Vancouver & the Panama Canal route was shipped from High River, by George Lane

1910 (1) Very dry year, not one drop of rain fell from April until October. Yet very few farmers suffered for want of feed or hay.

(2) Marquis was now the leading variety of spring wheat.

1911 (1) It took four pounds of twine per acre to harvest this year's crop.

(2) Grain prices had increased somewhat during the last ten years and wheat was seventy-three cents a bushel for No. One wheat.

1915 Although number one Marquis was the standard by which all other wheats were judged, it was not always satisfactory for this district and other parts of the province, because it did not always ripen sufficiently early to escape the fall frosts.

Everyone realized this weakness and plant breeders put forth every effort to produce a wheat of equal quality but which would ripen at least a week earlier. The result of their efforts was the introduction of Garnet, Red Bobs variations, Kubv and other early wheats. Garnet and the variations of "Red Bobs" have proven very satisfactory from the growers standpoint.

1925 "Garnet" wheat has never been popular from the miller's standpoint as it produces a dark colored flour. A variety known as "Reward" was produced but so far has not taken the place of "Garnet" because although it produces a good quality early wheat, it is not a heavy yielder as far as this district is concerned.

(2) The combine harvester which has proven so successful in other wheat growing districts was tried out here for the first time in 1925.

1928 Wheat of all varieties was frozen and therefore of poor quality but even this low grade wheat brought 60 cents a bushel

1930 onward. The story of the depression and low grain prices is familiar to us all.

1935 The grain board decided to keep Durum separate from other grains and grade it on a separate basis.

Here Tiffin should be given credit for work done by Geo. Findlay, and he also on behalf of Alberta farmers, to increase the quality of Alberta hogs, after the last war, the introduction of bacon types, etc. as there is a full story on the subject

IRRIGATION

An interesting phase of farming development was the building of irrigation ditches by a number of farmers in 1905 and 1906. They saw that irrigation would be a practical method because back in 1884 a ranch had built a serviceable system of irrigation by diverting water from Fish Pond onto their farm just north-west of town. Dan Riley, a rancher and River John laid the work.

Prior to 1905 it had been dry for six years and so as a last desper te ef ort they could possibly irrigate their land decided to build expensive irrigation systems. We can safely call it expensive because it cost about one thousand dollars for every mile of main ditch.

The Findlay family, Billy Buchanell and A. A. Wallace built a very practical system whereby they diverted water from the Highwood at a point on the young's ranch and were able to irrigate their hay flats along Tongue Creek. This ditch has been used almost continuously ever since, mainly to supply water to their live-stock.

The Highwood Ranch had a ditch that ran right through the town of High River. For many years this was a subject of controversy between the town of High River and the Highwood ranch but about 1909 some settlement was made and the ditch was closed and filled in.

The engineers had just finished a ditch for A. A. Wallace when a period of rainy weather set in and much of the ditch was destroyed. This ditch had cost three thousand dollars and was never used.

When I was attending high school, our teacher warned us to why irrigation on a large scale had never been attempted here. One of the boys replied that a reversible system would have to be developed, that could be used both for irrigation and drainage, to supply the needs of this country.

John Glenn built the first irrigation project in Southern Alberta in 1903 when he arranged to supply water from Fish Creek to his garden. Here a very peculiar sight was to be met with, as fish swam along between the rows of potatoes.

At the present time, the Little Bow Irrigation and the Sauny Coulee Irrigation take their water supply from the Highwood. Strictly speaking, neither is an irrigation project, in that they only divert the water to other water courses in order to supply water to livestock on ranches south-east of High River.

HOVERETT - R.N.W.M.P.

The coming of the Royal North West Mounted Police is history that is familiar to all my readers. In 1874 the first contingent was posted with headquarters at Lacombe. It was their duty to maintain law and order in a land that was under the influence of unscrupulous and lawless traders. It was their duty to prevent the sale of liquor to the Indians and to protect the settlers from the antagonism of the redmen. After their installation at Fort Macleod, they made their first arrest at the Coulee, just west of Lanton, when they arrested a bootlegger.

From Mosquito Creek (Lanton) northward ('F' Division to Calgary) policing was under the supervision of "G" division of the R.N.W.M.P. Directly after the rebellion of '85, detachment posts were established at several points between Lanton and Calgary. A detachment was located at the Seventy Six Ranch 7½ (former Over Cattle Co.) about one mile north of where the town of Lanton is now. The building that occupied stood on the ranch of Mr. F. Ives until a few years ago. Sgt. Gen. Cotton was one of the best police who ever wore the red serge and was moved into Lanton.

The first police post in proximity to Elk River was not placed in the town as we would know it, but was built near Childs in November 1886. It was situated on the land now owned by Mr. Pace. Mr. Hughes was then a settler and later joined the force himself in 1886. The post was later moved down to Mr. Holmes' farm, one mile south of Elk River.

was the policeman in charge at that time. Sgt. Day was given charge here during the years 1891 to 1895. He was followed by

Constable Scott. The detachment moved into Hay River and Sgt. Zeb Brown was put in charge. The building he occupied was the little house now situated beside Doctor Blayney's place.

In Fort Fitzgerville a detachment was placed on the force of Malcolm Miller, in the year 1900. A post was maintained there for 25 years. The first officer in charge here was known as "Daddy Deane" and who had joined the force during the Rebellion.

Sgt. Dee was transferred from Fitzgerville to Ootoots for a year or two. The Government did not maintain a separate post there and Sgt. Dee stayed at the home of Kenn Noles. From Ootoots, Sgt. Dee was transferred direct to a post in Hudson's Bay.

Sgt. Rob Ingram was left in charge at Fortisto and a post was maintained there for years.

At the O. K. ranch, Corporal Tweedie was given charge of a post known as 'Ings'. This was in 1897 and the post was named after the Ings brothers who were the owners of the O. K. ranch. Const. Salmon was put second in charge over Corporal Tweedie who detailed to go with Commissioner Steele to the Yukon.

Shortly after Father Lacombe founded the Indian Industrial School at Dunbow, a police detachment was stationed there because the Indian parents would change their minds and demand that their children come home again.

The work done by these early police duties was of a very routine nature and seldom was there anything of excitement or adventure. They rode many weary miles on patrol to the homes of outlying settlers. It was their duty to investigate the cause of all prairie fires and to see that the offenders were punished.

Also they had to patrol after each fire and help to destroy any animals that had their hooves burnt. Another duty was to report the occurrence of mange among the ranch cattle and to supervise the disinfecting process.

With the exception of the two notorious characters, Charcoal and Deerfoot, the Indians seldom gave any trouble.

The Mounties were also called upon to enforce the prohibition laws and to search out all moonshiners and bootleggers. This was their most arduous task as the population gave little or ~~the Intoxicating~~ no support.

Train

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL

This is a short review of the political activities of the Province because of prominent parts played by a number of citizens of this district, [redacted] T. S. Cayley, John Lineham, R. A. Wallace, J. A. Robertson, Dr. G. D. Stanley, and George Houdley.

The first three were our representatives in the legislature of the North West Territories. The last two have been active since the Province of Alberta was formed in 1905.

The North-West Council:- It was during the administration of Lt. Gov. Dewdney (1879 to 1888) that this section of the west took on any political significance. At the time of the sixth session of the council of the North West Territories in 1884, James D' Geddes was elected to represent the new electoral district of Calgary. This district constituted all of Alberta from Calgary to the national boundary line. Only 146 votes were polled in this election.

During this session the most important question was the Liquor Control Act. This act had been inaugurated by the first council of the North West Territories in 1874 and by the time of the sixth session it was an important political point. Primarily it had been designed to protect the Indians but now the white population was demanding liquor on an open basis. Other questions discussed at this session were in regard to the prevention of prairie and forest fires, fences, and registration of land titles. This council also recommended that the half-breeds and squatters be given compensation and that their land rights be registered. Had the Federal Government followed the suggestion of this council of the North West Territories, there would have been no Riel Rebellion.

In 1885 there was a rearrangement of electoral districts and this time the Calgary district had two representatives in the persons of Dr. J. D. Lauder and A. S. Cayley for the seventh session of the North West Council. At this session a memorial was sent to the Dominion Government asking that all old established trails be permanently surveyed. They also asked for a reduction of freight rates on lumber and other building supplies, and also that the duties on farm implements be reduced. A further demand was that the Council should control funds for roads, bridges, schools etc.

Another thing that caught especially note is that they suggested the encouragement of a Queen's Bay railway. The suggestion made in 1885 was not realized until fifty years later. Some of the questions instituted at that time such as duties on farm implements, freight rates etc., seem to have a perennial life and at every election they bob up afresh, even to this day. The Federal Government met some of the suggestions of the memorial and gave the North West Council the right of direct taxation excluding municipal taxation: also in 1887 a Land Registration office was established in Calgary.

At the ninth and last session of the North West Council, they recommended that representation be purely elective instead of being by appointment. The North West Council had very little legislative power and in nearly all matters its only course of action was to submit a suggestion to the Federal Govt. and it must abide by the vote of the Federal house. The North West Council felt that if they were definitely elected by the people, they would be in a better position to demand more rights

of self government for the West.

The Legislative Assembly of the North West Territories:- After a very stormy session, the Federal Government abolished the North West Council in 1888 and gave the North West Territories the right of electing by popular vote a Legislative Assembly. However, the battle for self government was by no means won, because, the Federal Government had insisted that this Legislative Assembly be subject to the supervision of the Lieutenant Governor and an Advisory Council. On June 27, 1888, elections were held throughout the North West Territories and John L'Heureux and W. S. Cowlay were elected to represent the electoral division of Calgary. There were only six divisions for all of Alberta, and the whole of southern Alberta was known as the Calgary district of Calgary. W. S. Cowlay was, therefore, our first elected representative in the first Legislative Assembly of the North West Territories, which met in Regina on July 4, 1888. Also on the same day, Joseph Royal was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of those North West Territories. This new assembly was able to pass only six acts because the Advisory Council and the limiting clauses of the North West Territories' Act actually tied their hands. However, they did make it perfectly plain to the Federal Government that the Assembly must be granted a larger subsidy for public works. By the North West Territories Act, the Dominion government had maintained control of all natural resources and therefore the Assembly had very little funds except that voted to them as a Dominion grant. This subject of the natural resources continued to be a bone of contention until 1905 when the Province

was given control of its natural resources. In 1[illegible] the Assembly was given more power but not what they asked for and so there was considerable antagonism between the Assembly and the Advisory Council. Two years later the Assembly was given a real measure of responsible government when they were allowed to sit separately without the supervision of the L. Governor; they were given complete control of all funds, power to regulate the liquor traffic, power to conduct the elections, the administration of justice and others, real powers of self government.

Another election was held in October of 1[illegible] and a new man, John Lineham, was elected along with T. S. Cayley to represent the Calgary electors. Although T. S. Cayley was a member of Premier Haultain's executive, he voted, along with Lineham, against the Premier's "Budget Speech". In his speech the Premier admitted that he had been able to obtain only $300,000 from Ottawa and the Assembly had asked for $388,720. This brought about the defeat of Premier Haultain and so T. S. Cayley and his supporters took over the reins of government for the balance of the session, although there was a complete deadlock, due to the resignation of the Speaker.

At the third session of the Assembly, Cayley resigned from the Executive and Haultain was reinstated as Premier. The removal of duties on implements, binder twine, barbed wire, coal oil and cotton were again the subjects of debate.

Charles H. Mackintosh was appointed as L. Governor in 1893 to replace the Hon. Joseph Royal. Preparatory to the elections of 1894, the electoral districts were changed and the

town of Calgary and surrounding area was made one district, still under the old name of Calgary. As new district was formed and designated as High River electoral district; this took in the area between Dewinton and Stavely. John Lineham was elected to represent this new district in the elections of 1904. His opponent was a Mr. Boswell, who supported the Liberal cause. Mr. Lineham served in the assembly till 1906. The year 1907 was a busy year for Mr. Lineham because of the big floods of that year. The bridges at High River, Davisburg and Okotoks were swept away and of course they had to be rebuilt. It was the duty of the local representative to arrange contracts for roads, bridges etc. During the dry years of 1904, /05, and /06 Mr. Lineham had to supervise the supplying of seed grain to the drought-stricken farmers.

In the elections of November 4, 1909, Mr. R. A. Wallace, who was fighting under the Liberal banner, ousted Mr. Lineham. In 1909 Mr. Wallace was reelected and so he spent two full terms in the Assembly of the North West Territories. During this time from 1905 to 1909, Mr. A. C. Forget was the Lt. Governor and Mr. Haultain acted as Premier. During Mr. Wallace's tenure, over 300 miles of roads were surveyed, and the course of the High wood was changed in order to protect the town. A bridge was built over Fonsue Creek and also because of the Macleod Trail was more definitely defined because so many homesteads had been taken up through which it had passed. Mr. Wallace took a very personal interest in the needs of his constituents and those who approached him were always sure of a sympathetic hearing and given whatever help it was in his power to give. He was firmly in favor of

Autonomy for the new province of Alberta and voted accordingly.

The province of Alberta was formed in 1905 and on the 16th of March 1906 Lt. Governor Bulyea opened the first session of the infant province. In the elections prior to this session, Mr. Wallace was defeated and Mr. A. J. McPherson of Macleod was the representative for the Red River Riding in the first legislature. Mr. Robertson and the member for Didsbury were the only two Conservatives in the legislature. Mr. Robertson offered severe criticism in reply to the Premier's opening speech but of course he could do nothing as he had only one colleague.

The first thing brought up after the opening of Parliament was the question of what place should be the capital of the province. The assembly voted unanimously in favor of Edmonton. The telephone act was also passed at the first session.

At the third session of the legislature, in 1908, steps were taken for the protection of the laboring class and the Workman's Compensation Act was passed. [illegible], in which allowance was made for sale of liquor as a morning day.

There was at this time considerable complaint from the farmers regarding the method of the Pork Packing Industry. So a commission was appointed consisting of R. A. Wallace, James Bower of Red Deer and A. G. Harrison of Edmonton. They recommended that the government establish a Pork Packing Plant where there was a sufficient number of hogs available.

The second election was held on March 23, 1909, but this time there were three representatives in the legislature whom there had only been one before. George Hedley (Conservative)

was elected to represent the Okotoks riding, Mr. Glendenning (Liberal) was elected for Lenton and Dr. Bradley was returned in High River. This was all a Liberal sweep.

The third election was as follows :- High River - Dr. Bradley (Conservative), Mr. Glendenning (Liberal) in Lenton and Mr. Cor. Bradley (Conservative) in Okotoks.

Dr. Bradley's best work was done during the time he acted as Minister of Health. His idea of municipal hospitals has proven to be a real social improvement. Municipal hospitals are built and give good service and this system could be profitably taken up by districts everywhere. The people of High River should be quite satisfied with their municipal hospital and very grateful to Dr. Bradley for promoting the municipal hospital act. A more recent experiment is the High River health unit. The aim of this unit is to work for prevention of disease. There in charge examine all milk supplies for the town, give health lectures, examine the school children, including rural children, and make special arrangements for examination of tuberculosis suspects etc.

During the twenty-six years in which Dr. Bradley was in parliament, he sponsored many important movements. As Minister of Agriculture, he worked faithfully to develop a bacon industry. At the present time Alberta is the second largest producer of hogs in Canada and the large amount of bacon cured out is of a high standard quality. Dr. Bradley travelled to England and Denmark and studied the demands of the British market as well as the conditions of the Danish bacon production. The

farmers of the province quickly followed Mr. Bracken's suggestions and made the Province a model of standardized bacon factories.

→ Mr Bickell, past Conservative minister: Conservatives, as the men to whom this credit belongs in that he initiated a big programme for all of Canada

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

The North West Territories were given the right of representation in the Federal Parliament in 1886. On March 15, 1887 elections were held and D. W. Davis was elected to represent all of Alberta.

It might be interesting to note that at the time of elections there were only 5000 white people in all of Alberta and there were only 630 voters in Calgary division of the Alberta riding. In 1891 Mr. Davis was re-elected and served until 1896.

When the province was formed in 1905, it was allowed the right of a definite proportion of representatives at Ottawa. High River, Okotoks and Nanton were included in the Macleod electoral district. Mr. John Herron of Pincher Creek was the first Federal member for Macleod. In the elections of 1911, Mr. Herron was one of the very few conservatives who came out flatly for reciprocity, but he was defeated.

In more recent years, Mr. George Coote of Nanton, who has been in the Progressive ranks since their inception, has been conspicuous by his demands for banking and monetary reform.

D. Warnock [illegible] since [illegible]
First Mayor of Lethbridge elected 1917 [illegible]

GOV'T PUBLICATIONS 1 4 to REMF

North West Council:-

Sat at Regina - nine sessions in all from 1 74 to 1 97 - sat at Battleford first session. Lt. Governor - Lord Dundonald 1888. Elections of 1 74 - James D. Gates elected to represent Calgary district which took in all territory between Calgary and Macleod. Elections of 1 5 - J. D. Lawler and W. S. Cutler appointed to represent Calgary riding.

Legislative Assembly - elected to replace the North West Council. Sat at Regina 1 to 1905. Lt. Governor - Hon. J. Dan Royal 1 . Elections of 1 - W. S. Cutler and John Lineham elected for Calgary district. Elections of 1 1 - W. S. Cutler (of Calgary) and John Lineham (of Okotoks) elected for Calgary riding.

Lt. Governor - Hon. W. Scarlett 1 5. Elections of 1 - John Lineham of Okotoks elected to represent Bow River riding. Calgary district was divided into 2 ridings, Calgary and Bow River. Lt. Governor - Hon. A. C. Forget - 1 7.

Election date was 1 , Bow River representative - R. A. Wallace, premier - Hon. Haultain.

Election 1 - Bow River representative - R. A. Wallace, premier - Haultain - Liberal Government.

Alberta Provincial Legislature

Lt. Governor - Hon. Fulton 1 . Election date 1 - R. A. C. Rutherford premier, representative for Bow River - J. A. Robertson (of Canmore). First premier of Alberta - leader of Liberals.

Election date 1 - Liberal party re-elected in election in

the new province. Representative for Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (conservative). Representative for High River - ——— Representative for Nanton - James Glendenning (liberal)

Third Election April 17, 1913 - Liberal Government won. High River - Dr. Stanely (conservative); Nanton - James Glendenning (liberal): Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (conservative).

Lt. Governor Brett - 1915.

Fourth Election June 7, 1917 - Liberal Government won. High River - Dr. Stanley (conservative); Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (conservative): Nanton - James Blair (U. F. A.). Premier - R. Greenfield.

Fifth Election July 18, 1921 - U. F. A. won. High River, Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (U.F.A.); Nanton - Dr. D. Galbraith (U.F.A.):

Sixth Election June 22, 1926. U. F. A. won. Nanton - Dr. D. W. Galbraith (U.F.A.); High River, Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (U.F.A.).

Lt. Governor - Egbert 1925 to 1931. Premier - Greenfield.

Seventh Election June 19, 1930 - U. F. A. won High River, Okotoks - Geo. Hoadley (U.F.A.); Nanton, Claresholm - C. F. Walker of Stavely (U.F.A.)

Lt. Governor Reid 1931.

Eighth Election August 22, 1935 - Social Credit won High River, Okotoks - Rev. W. Morrison; Nanton - Mr. Morrison resigned in favor of Premier Aberhardt.

DEVELOPMENT OF [illegible] POST OFFICES

This chapter will endeavor to give a short history of the origin and development of towns and post offices within the area with which this organization deals.

(1) Fish River:- The reader will recall, from references in a former chapter, that Fish River was known as Fort Saltzee, during early "Pre-ing Days" of the '50's and '60's.

During the "Ranching Period" the place was usually spoken of as "The Crossing." This was because a very good ford and ferry existed just below where the bridge now is. The ranch home of French and Smith (I believe French was U. S. Scout) was the only building near where the town of Fish River was later built. This ranch was later sold or leased to Mr. Blunt and Mr. Wilcox, whose brand was her U . The property was transferred to the late J. A. (Sorry) McGlenchin, who lived there up until his death in 1930. In the early 60's travellers stopped at the home of French and Smith. Here the mail was taken care of, [illegible] in a soap box. in a soap box by the few people of the surrounding country. From here to the nearest post office was at Fort Benton, Montana, and United States mails were used. Once each week the mail was brought by Jim Scott, who was the stage driver. When the mail sack was brought into the house, it was emptied into a box and each man helped himself to his own mail. This was the way of things until 1885 when the town's first storekeeper, J. Sidney Gibbs, took charge of the mail. Then Mr. Gibbs, who also had opened a store became postmaster for a time. Mr. W. E. Wilcox took over one of these stores and also the handling of the mail. In 1888 the late Joseph Irgens was appointed as postmaster, which position he held for

40 years. The present postmaster is Mr. Holmes, whose father held the same position nearly fifty years ago. The commodious brick structure was erected as a post office building in 1954.

Remove last sent. It is a quot. Mdn. that includes the post office,

With the coming of the C.P.R. railroad in 1883, the day of the stage coach was past and from then onward the mail was been brought regularly by train.

John Quirk was the next settler at High River. In the year 1883, he drove 600 head of cattle into the district and he decided that along the Little Bow would be ideal pasturage for his herd. He built a cabin beside the Little Bow at about where Jim Emerson's home is now. His wife shared the vicissitudes of this pioneer land and at that time Mrs. Quirk was the only white woman residing between Calgary and Macleod, and she was the first white woman in High River. Mr. and Mrs. Quirk only stayed here for a few years and then they moved up into Sullivan Creek. Bill Hainard homesteaded at the same time as Quirk, on the land that is now the centre of the town, but he did not build a cabin or retain his claim.

Although J. Quirk, L. French and C. W. Smith (not Buck Smith) were the only residents of the town in 1882, there were a number of settlers in the immediate vicinity. Pettipiece and Cotton were settled where the Pinewood Ranch is now and John Saxsmith homesteaded at where is now the Golf Grounds. John Ware took up land just north of the town, where is now part of F. A. Wallace's farm. R. A. Wallace also homesteaded during that year. Just west of French and Smith was Mr. Abercrombie and along the Little Bow were Andy Bell and Bill Bliss. These

eleven men homesteaded on land that now adjoins the town.

The first "Hotel" was built by Jasper (Buck) Smith and Chalmers, during 1883. This was a more pretentious structure than those in the neighborhood and it served as a hotel, church and general community centre. This hotel served as a stopping place for freighters and others travelling between Ft. Benton and Calgary by way of Macleod. The following year Geo. Lane and Jr. Pearson became the owners of this stopping place and then "Buck" Smith built his famous "Boarding House". For many years this was the rendezvous for cowboys and ranchers. At a dance held here in '85 there were ten women and twenty-five men present, some coming from as far away as Calgary. The music was a mouth organ. Buck Smith and his wife left here soon after 1890 but the old log "Boarding House" is still standing just north of the new Telephone building, it has been boarded over and is at present the residence of Mr. Palmer.

About the time the railroad came through in 1892 the St. George Hotel was built. Then during the next days, after 1900, three other hotels were built, the Alberta Hotel, the Astoria and the Oxford. The Alberta was demolished about ten years ago to make room for the new modern garage on Main Street. The old Astoria was torn down in 1920 as a safety measure. The St. George and the Oxford are up-to-date, thriving, institutions and are sufficient for the town's present needs.

Schools:- The educational work in Pitch River began in 1890 when a young Scotch girl named Palmer opened school in a log building west of town, on the farm now popularly known as Sherby McGaughlin's. This building had been the home of Buck Smith, prior to 1890, and the school children soon found

[illegible] it was easy to remove the plaster from between the logs. The families attending this school were the C. A. Smiths, Shorts, Soxsmiths and Findleys. After the first term, Mr. Blair took charge as teacher. The trustees were Isaac Coffey, Joe Short, Robert Findlay Sr.; and Harry Drew was secretary-treasurer, and they decided that a new school should be built. A new school was needed because the snow drifted in between the old logs, and the rain soaked through the sod roof. The logs were accordingly cut and Mr. Soxsmith and Mr. Findlay placed them on the north side of the river. Mr. Short and Mr. French roughly hauled them back across to the south side. The logs were never used because in 1870, a frame school was erected more to the stone building (Presbyterian Church) now stands. It was burned to the ground in 1907, much to the joy of two girls. Bill Gibson, Mich [illegible]'s first white child (born in 1856) was one of those who attended at that time. In 1[illegible], two years school was built, Charles Schaefer had the contract, Mr. Spencer did the stone work, and J. M. Fuller finished the interior.

In 1902 this school was found to be too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of pupils and the three room building on the hill was erected. In 1912 this became overcrowded and the High School was removed to the new brick building in the eastern part of the town.

Bridges :- Because of frequent high water and consequent danger in fording, ferry was established at the [illegible] River Crossing in A. D. 1850. The [illegible] boxed with children cost [illegible] to cross on the ferry. The next year a wooden bridge was built but it was washed out in the

spring floods of 1[illegible]7. It was replaced [illegible] full with another [illegible] on [illegible]. The present steel structure was built in 1[illegible]0.

Churches:- The history of the High River Churches is not the least interesting [illegible] of the early days of the growth of the town. In the [illegible] days a clergyman would take his stand where a group of cowboys were [illegible] a game of poker. As he came [illegible] the game, he would [illegible] them some [illegible] to ponder over [illegible] their next deal. Finally he would ask leave to preach a short sermon. The players would then [illegible] their cards and [illegible] would listen respectively to what he had to say. [illegible] of higher, every would soon be taken up and the business of cowboying continued. That [illegible] of the seed sown by these men was not to be sudden, but it is also true that much of it took root and bore an abundant harvest.

The first Church to be erected in High River in 1[illegible]1 was the building now used by the Loyal Orange Lodge. It stood on the south side of the street almost opposite to its present location. This was a Union Church in the sense that both Presbyterians and Anglicans used it. The Presbyterians had formed a Church [illegible] in 1[illegible] and [illegible]. Thomas Baird and Robert Finlay were the first elders.

The first Presbyterian clergyman to the district was the Rev. Owen Roberts. He was a [illegible] and a [illegible] who carried a six-shooter as well as a Bible. On one occasion a couple of cowboys thought they would play a joke on him, so taking his revolver from its holster they replaced it with a rock. Later, while the Rev. Owen was riding over Gladys Ridge he came

a judgment and thought he would like to make a comment. Nothing for it can be found only in rock. But it was not to be long at this point, as he threw the rock out by a most notable crash of luck, killed the rabbit.

The old Presbyterian Church was used until 1900 when the present brick building was erected, and is now used by the United Church. The first rector in the new edifice was the Rev. R. Stewart.

The Rev. James Morgan was not followed in succession by a fresh missionary, but by a Methodist. This was the Rev. Mr. McLean, better known as "Peacelin Sherry." In 1901 the present Methodist Church was built. It is interesting to note that the first sermon preached in this Church was by the Rev. W. E. Gordon, then a young minister with good manners at Oldcastle.

Active interest in Baptist denominational work began with the coming of the Elliotts and D. A. Morrison to High River. The Baptist Church was built in 1900.

The first Anglican missionary to the High River district was the Rev. W. Smith, whose advent was [illegible] contemporaneous with that of "Peacelin Sherry." A settlement which was soon established and the Church was built in 1905, the Rev. Mr. Allen was its first clergyman.

Among the earliest settlers in High River were to be found members of the Roman Catholic faith. Sharing the true missionary spirit which has always characterized this Church she did not

neglect the interests of her people. Catholic clergymen regularly visited the district. Between 1880 and 1907 Catholic interests at High River were attended to by the various missionaries Father Lacombe, Father Pisiane and Father Dubois. These priests held services in the private homes of the town and district until the fall of 1907. However, it was not until 1910 that it was thought expedient to form a Church. In that year the Church of St. Francis de Sales was built and Father Beausoleil came to take charge.

As valiant a body of women as ever existed were those who first broke trail in the west, bringing with them, in spite of primitive conditions, the atmosphere of home and stability. We were fortunate in High River in still having with us a number of these "Mothers of the town." It was natural that women should first organize in religious work and in 1889 the Presbyterian Ladies Aid was formed. The officers were:- President, Mrs. T. Henry: Vice President, Mrs. W. [illegible]; Secretary: Miss Shaw. Amongst the members were the names G. Findlay, Shaw, Glendenning, Spaulding, Wallace, A. Macdougall, Riley, R. Roberts sn, Heslip, and Miss Rhea and Mrs. Somsmith.

Shortly after, in 1902, the Methodist Ladies Aid was organized, with Mrs. Heslip as President and Mrs A. M. A. Thompson as secretary. There were six members in the organization when the Church was built in 1902. It is of interest to record that Mrs. A. M. A. Thompson is the only one of the original group still living in High River.

I have already told you of the first store of Mr. Gibbs and that of Mr. Ward in 1905. The following year Mr. Holmes and Mr. Kirkpatrick started a store where the trading Co. store now stands. In 1910 Joe Lineham, Mr. Robertson, Colonel Journel and one other took over the Holmes store and incorporated under the name of the High River Trading Co. In 1913 they built the present store building.

The first blacksmith shop was opened in 1887 by Mr. Jim [illegible] about him Lineham, who later sold to Sam Conklin. During the ten years following the coming of the railroad, High River slowly expanded. Then, from 1900 to 1903 it grew by leaps and bounds. John Lineham built his big sawmill in 1901 and this enterprise employed several hundred men. Hotels, stores, 3 churches, 2 banks and even a new post office was built, and the town reached much the proportions that it has today.

One point we must not miss; there were as many livery stables and barns at that time as there are public and private garages in town today. As late as 1910 there were still 25 cars around High River. One sign of growth in those boom days of High River and the country roundabout is shown by the fact that in 1906 there were 42 real estate agents in High River.

Banks:- Before there were any banks in High River, sums of money were entrusted to Mr. A. E. T. Thompson, who had a large safe in his store. This was a great responsibility for Mr. Thompson and necessitated his making frequent trips to Calgary to make deposits.

The Union Bank was our first banking institution and it was here opened for business in 1904. Mr. Forsche was the manager.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce was opened in Richmond Hill on 4th Instant during the summer of 1905 by Mr. J. S. Hunt. The bank authorities to realize by that time that Richmond Hill was indeed a prosperous district and a thriving town worthy of their best consideration.

The Bank of Montreal took advantage of the opportunity to open a branch here, and in 1906 they selected their site on Yonge Street and caused to be erected thereon a fine substantial building. The bank was formally opened by J. S. Jones who continued as manager for several years.

In 1917 the Royal Bank and Northern Crown were amalgamated and it was then that this powerful financial institution was established here in the premises formerly occupied by the Northern Crown in the Loch block. It remained there till it amalgamated with the Union in 1925. The Royal then joined with the Bank of Montreal and then moved to the building erected by the Bank of Montreal which it now occupies. The Royal Bank now serves those formerly here customers of the Union, Northern Crown, and Montreal banks.

In 1906 the Dominion Bank decided to open a branch here and the late George Lane secured the corner property opposite the Bank of Commerce and caused for the building of a business block or store, of iron and the Bank. In 1907 Mr. E. Hurtle arrived to open the bank. This institution was closed in 1931.

The first express to reach Richmond Hill arrived from Aurora, [illegible] of out to reach this village, [illegible] from Richmond Hill during 1900. Many people who now reside in this district will remember [illegible] their mail during the years 1903 to 1911, when there were not sufficient

grain elevators to handle the amount of grain. Elevator row was indeed a busy place at this time of year [illegible] wanted to get elevator to sell their bowls of grain. It was not uncommon for a wagon to have to wait two or three days before he could unload his grain. This was mainly because, at that time, the [illegible] was the nearest shipping point to the country to the eastward, such as Delia, Hirsham, Acme, and even as far away as Vulcan.

The telephone system remained until 1906 in for many years the Central Office was located in the Lindsay Dixon block. At the present time the Dept. of Government Telephones have an excellent central office of their own. The telephone system was [illegible] by the Bell Telephone Co. but was later taken over by the province. [illegible] the first C. P. R. [illegible] Lacombe [illegible] Board was sold to farmers.

[illegible] Would suggest [illegible] 1. [illegible] 2. [illegible] with [illegible] 3. Baseball [illegible] Bill Nelson). [illegible] Provincial [illegible] [illegible] special [illegible] agricultural [illegible]

[illegible] IV - FAIR

The Fair Grounds stands [illegible] way, but [illegible] years ago the Rich River Fair was the most important annual event held in the entire district. The Rich River Agricultural Society did much to improve the quality of the livestock and [illegible] products and the Fair was also an important sporting event. Hundreds of people drove or rode many miles to attend. The whole days of the Fair were packed with interest and excitement. Everyone had a good time watching the various race events and the trick-riding shows. The cowboy bronco race and the squaw race (astride) were among the most popular events. Some of the Indians had really good thoroughbred horses and can remember the racing days. The Indian races were mixed in between the [illegible] sort-of-square dances, but when the Indians got to do their tribal dances to the music of the tom-toms. Do-it Indian encampment, [illegible] was turned into the night as the Indians held a sort of a reunion each of their own.

One [illegible] of the Fair which I especially recall was a spectator-driven chariot race which usually caused the most excitement of the whole day.

Rings:- Since [illegible] has played an important part in the development of our community we must not forget that the Rich River has had a power ring since 1902. The Rich River Fair [illegible] started in Flynn's first [illegible] which he called "The [illegible] Ring," and it was joined by many [illegible]. The following [illegible] Charles Clark purchased the Bob Evans plant and moved the name to the "Rich River Times." In the first issue of the "Times"

changed location [illegible]. It finally settled down and stayed on the old location on Fourth Street until the fine new premise built in 19[illegible]. The Times was an up-to-date plant and had a good list of [illegible] subscribers.

[illegible] Dr. Fraser practiced medicine at Fish River from 1[illegible]7 to 1[illegible]. His primary purpose in coming to Fish River was to get his son [illegible] in business as a pharmacist, and accordingly he purchased the property presently owned by Walter Wade. He also purchased four hundred head of young cattle. [illegible] Dr. Welsh was the next doctor in Fish River, and it is [illegible] located in the town proper. Dr. Welsh was a good medical man but his love for liquor seriously impaired his usefullness. [illegible] Dr. Welsh moved to Okotoks, and [illegible] more salubrious.

Dr. Stanley arrived in 1[illegible], but even after [illegible] there was no local hospital for his convenience. Later Dr. Stanley became well known for his part in politics as a supporter of the Conservative party. [illegible] built by Bailey Thompson. On the east side of the track was used as a hospital, and [illegible] served until 1[illegible], when the present municipal hospital was erected.

Fish River was incorporated as a town on February 1[illegible], 1906. The first town council was elected on April 2, 1[illegible]6. The [illegible]onell

Re incorporation see Percy Taylor

1st tax roll was $500 & assessment was ——— ?
compare to present (secure figures)

Get a accurate account of 1st meeting. e.g. what
to do. will need to have by laws. what for. will
others had by laws and be damned if we can't.
Decided & passed to get copy of them en bloc.
Include incidents of by law no cows at large
& whole town in arms over it (Everyone sported a
pitch cow at large.

Remember keeping in human nature, sidelights,
& back narration of events (and more
important give picture of actual (& for
comparison) ~~the~~ picture of conditions
at each particular time because
there men & their character implemented
all events & not events implemented them.
Be strict in accuracy of detail e.g. re
town hall. it had clerks office, jail, fire house
auditorium & dance floor, public meetings
& council chamber & magistrates office,
then a reader would ask himself why in hell
did they expend 15 grand on a town hall.
Add: It still adequately serves. Population then 2000

was as follows: Mayor, D. S. Miller; Councillors, Dr. Stanley, Harvey Taylor, Alex Thomson, Lemuel Sexsmith, C. W. Sutherland, and Norman Young.

The first big task was the building of a $15,000.00 town hall, and to secure adequate fire protection. Shortly after, the municipal Electric Light Plant was built at a total cost of $30, [illegible] & school. Todd donated the lots.

Since the inauguration of the first council, the following men have occupied the mayor's chair:- Messrs. D. S. Miller, H. Young, C. Grant, W. W. Wallace, J. Hunt, W. Smith, Lewis Williams, George Long and F. J. Hunt.

In 1911 the cement sidewalk system was undertaken, and yearly extensions have provided a very complete system of cement walks. In 1912 and 1913 the council authorized the installation of a $40,000.00 sewage and waterworks system. This, too, is being extended yearly within the town limits. In 1914 the municipal skating rink was built and has been most successfully operated. In 1923 the power plant was sold and the town now obtains its electricity through the services of the Ontario Power Co. In 1927 the town entered into an agreement with the Consumers Gas and Natural Gas Co. for the installation of gas lighting in the town.

In the beautification of the town no effort has been spared. The town also operates two tree nurseries from which seedlings of trees have been distributed for the adornment of boulevards. The town park is well kept and is a popular picnic resort for both town and country people.

THE FIRST SALOON

Nearly every western thriller has as part of its story some incident in the local saloon. The first saloon built in High River was built by Harry Drew in the year 1[illegible]. Many interesting stories could probably be told about it but old-timers seem reluctant to tell them.

Harry Drew's saloon was a poor, frail construction of logs and sod; but on Christmas day it suffered a noticeable change. The celebrating cowboys shot the chinks out of the walls and nearly all the chinking out from between the logs. Later Mr. Drew remarked the place would freeze a dog, [redacted] "

During the celebration, Romeo Garvais held his glass aloft while he expostulated on some point of the day. This was too much of a temptation for the reckless Drew and he said to some of the boys, "Later we hit that glass." Drew promptly shot the glass out of Romeo's hand. Ike & Ben Rankin always practicing with six shooters but only bad men by appearance.

OKOTOKS

Okotoks is the oldest incorporated town south of Calgary. It received its charter as a town in the year 1904 and Dr. Stockton was elected as its first mayor. Prior to this and in the late 90's it was a thriving and active rural centre and had a larger population than it has today.

The story of Okotoks goes back to the early days, when a Mr. Machill established a ranch at the fording place about a mile east of town. This came become a sort of stopping place and the mail was left there. Shortly after and a post office was established at the place and was designated as Sheep Creek Post Office. The post office was known as Sheep Creek until 1[illegible]9, when it was changed to Okotoks, an Indian word meaning

"Stoner Creek Inn." The store near the post office was transferred to the first store on the present site of Oviatt, and operated by Jerb Bone.

Alec Cameron and Kenny Cameron homesteaded land on the land which is now the centre of the town. Travellers stayed a reference to stop at Kenny Cameron's and soon it became the central point of activity. Until such time as Jack Cameron, son of Kenny was nicknamed "Corner Jack" and the place became known as the "Corner place."

When the country was surveyed in 1914, it was found that Cameron had selected a homestead which would be a school section. However, they were not disappointed as the site was relocated as school land instead. W. Patterson and Son purchased Jerb Bone's store and post office and moved it, structure and name, eastward.

Mr. John Innes, who was a store owner of Iron Dredge was instrumental in having the name of the post office changed in 1914 to Oviatt. Could not agree on name to suit Oviatts and they suggested Millet Town. Patterson objected and the name of Oviatt be retained, as the post office had been named as such.

The first school was held in the house of Alec Cameron with a total number of ten pupils enrolled. Miss Dixon (Mrs. A. Lamoureux), was the first teacher in Oviatt. She received $75.00 per month, Miss Bruce (Mrs. A. Lamoureux), was also a teacher there. After two years of service, the school was finally moved down into the town. Miss Martin (Mrs. A. Andrews)

was the town's real boom time.

As the town grew, during the 1870's, the school [illegible] soon moved into [illegible] and in 1883 Hank Mitt constructed the four-room brick building that was used for the primary grades. [illegible] on the hill above the town.

The first saw mill in Oregon was a portable rig brought in by Donald Davison about 1845. It stationed it out on Spring Creek. The first water or long breath dam to be used as mill power was on Davison's claim in the year 1911. The next year John Iverson put a much bigger dam above. He was so successful in this that he erected the big saw mill which for many years was perhaps the most important industry in the town. The mill was destroyed [illegible] by fire. The first bridge across Silver Creek was built (just) as part of [illegible] to patch the logs for the Iverson mill. The old flour [illegible] ruled out the piling bridge, the remains below, and all the mill logs floated down the creek.

The old "Ghosts" was the first hotel built in Oregon. It was erected in 1857 and it was [illegible] the first Oregon mail was sent. The [illegible] were crammed [illegible] and [illegible] in the hall above.

The first visiting minister was the Rev. P. Gibbons, a Catholic, and [illegible] Oregon, on the Creek. [illegible] his home in Oregon during the late [illegible] to [illegible], he was [illegible] well [illegible] preaching places. [illegible] was [illegible] was held in the [illegible] in the present Christ Church. [illegible] it

may be said that they had a Union congregation [illegible] before the United Church of Canada became a reality.

Before Rev. [illegible] several ministers who came to have [illegible] services. Rev. [illegible], representing the Presbyterian faith, [illegible] once only in every two months. [illegible] occasionally in the early [illegible]0's were Rev. Scott and Rev. [illegible].

Sgt. Dee was the first member of the [illegible] to be stationed at Okotoks. There was no police post as at present, so he made his headquarters at the home of Mr. [illegible].

From the earliest days Okotoks has been a strong point for the work of the Orangemen's Lodge. The first Orange Hall was built on the farm of [illegible] Greenfield, several miles north-east of town, but [illegible] the lodge building was moved into Okotoks. The same year the Lodge held the first Orange Parade held in Southern Alberta.

The late Bobby [illegible] was editor of the first newspaper in Okotoks; he [illegible] the paper [illegible] 190[illegible].

Okotoks developed at a fast pace during the [illegible]0's and up to the time of its incorporation as a town. Then for many years it was at a standstill until [illegible] a few years ago. As Okotoks is the nearest shipping point to the Turner Valley oil field, all the oil companies made Okotoks their base of supplies. Every available space along the track was piled full of well piping and equipment of all kinds.

Okotoks [illegible] this:- The Wilson family were comfortably settled in [illegible] but Mr. Wilson felt [illegible] would like to obtain permanent employment and so [illegible] faithfully scanned the columns of the [illegible] Herald. One day he saw a "[illegible]"

[illegible] read, 'wanted, a man, [illegible] blacksmith and handy man. Year around work. Apply Lincoln Gaskill, Silver Creek." The next [illegible]. Lincoln hired a man and drove [illegible] to Silver Creek (Cheney) and he obtained [illegible] at Lincoln's sawmill, in the spring of 1874.

The shop equipment was [illegible] but Mr. Wilson was able to do and made the best of circumstances. The anvil was placed on a tree stump and the bellows for the fire were fastened to another tree. Such was the first blacksmith shop in Silverton.

Mill Ol

The stopping place which later became known as Lemon was situated on Mosquito Creek about two miles north of the present town. Joe Trollinger from California and his sister Lucy [illegible] homesteaded here in 1874. Lucy was of the Bloor tribe, but all travellers agreed that she was a good cook. Their place was usually known as Dutch Joe's' because any visitor was almost certain to receive a very cordial welcome of 'grains.

Joe Trollinger sold out in 1883 to the "Former River Cattle Company' who used his place as headquarters of their "76" ranch. The place is now known as the "Lidray Ranch" and is owned by Mr. Fred M. Ives.

After the Former River Cattle Co. disbanded in 1889, the property was a stopping place and post office kept by D. V. Lott, and later by Mr. Downs. The Countess Von Schlieben was telegraph boss until about 1903. When the railroad came through in 1903, there by the side track and station it was named "Lemon" in honor of Gen. J. H. Lemon, who was one of the pioneers

of the C.P.R., more particularly the C and E. The coming of the railway eliminated the need for Sumner's store in place at the ferry, so the post office was moved to the store of J. D. Jewish and Mr. Jewish was postmaster. Mr. [illegible] Shaw opened the first store, April 1.02, and the post office was then located in his store and he also took charge of this work.

The building was erected by Ray Bell & Emery Bellay

The next building to be erected was the Auditorium Hotel" and was under the management of L. J. Brown, who had formerly operated a hotel in Otterburn. The third building to be erected was the Hinton Livery Barn.

The senior business firm of Hinton [illegible] started business there in partnership with [illegible] E. Abbott in July 1.03, and has been engaged in business there ever since. [illegible] J. Patterson is the next senior business man in business here since 1.07. J. C. Patterson was born in business in Hinton continuously since 1.03.

[illegible] Bailey Bros. of Mt. Robson started a small store of [illegible] in 1.03 and opened a [illegible] in the town of Hinton. They did a flourishing business for several years.

The first [illegible] of the Hinton Land Co. was [illegible] June 21 1.07, with J. A. Lemon the owner of the [illegible]. The land was laid out in [illegible] by A. A. Jones, who also filed the survey plans. [illegible] Hinton was given its status of a village in 1.09, Mr. Fenton was appointed as the first overseer. He was followed by [illegible] A. E. Cobb, A. J. Brown and W. A. Gunn.

On the [illegible] of August, 1.07, [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] and a number of the persons.

J. F. Cooper, [illegible] known [illegible]
[illegible] was [illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

of [illegible] ver [illegible] services [illegible] and later [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible], services [illegible] by Rev. [illegible] Rev. [illegible]. In 1[illegible]4 [illegible] ist Church [illegible] built.

[illegible] he needs of Roman Catholic residents [illegible] met [illegible] by Rev. Father [illegible] of Dun[illegible], in 1[illegible]4. [illegible] pioneer [illegible] since 1[illegible]. In 1[illegible]7 [illegible] Roman Catholics under the leadership of [illegible] built the Church of St. Cecilia. [illegible] Rev. [illegible] of [illegible] 1[illegible]7 Rev. [illegible] Church. [illegible] members.

[illegible]

J. [illegible] 1[illegible], [illegible], 1[illegible].
[illegible] D. [illegible] 1[illegible], 1[illegible].
[illegible] Ar[illegible] 1[illegible], 1914.
[illegible] 1[illegible]15, 1[illegible].
[illegible] Z. [illegible] 1917, 1[illegible].
J. [illegible] Eckert 1[illegible], 1[illegible]0.
[illegible] S. [illegible] 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible].
J. C. [illegible] 1[illegible], 1[illegible].
J. [illegible] Cooper 1[illegible], 1[illegible].
[illegible] 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible], 1[illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] dialect [illegible], [illegible] is [illegible] for the [illegible], and [illegible] surrounding district. [illegible] miles [illegible], it became [illegible] for [illegible] to town to bring out the mail for their neighbors. [illegible] central point, the mail was left [illegible] house. [illegible] established, [illegible].

F. Stinson, the rancher's wife, took charge of the mail. When it was transferred to the ranch bunkhouse (men's sleeping quarters) the ranch bookkeeper was the official postmaster. At the present time Pekisko is on a rural mail route and the mail is delivered twice a week.

A police detachment was stationed at the mouth of Pekisko Creek in 1[illegible] and Sgt. Pelkington was in charge. This post was discontinued about five years later. The earliest story is "The South Trail Ranche Post", which was built about 60 years ago by the late Mr. Harry Paine. Mr. Paine had the confidence of the Stoney Indians and they did considerable trading with him. Mrs. Paine now has in her possession a very interesting and valuable collection of Indian curios and relics.

About a mile west of the B a r U is St. Aiden's Church of the Anglican Faith, which was built about 1[illegible]0.

CAVELY

The ranches from the foothills, for many years N.B. Cavely was a convenient cattle shipping point. [illegible] was a sort of loading chute, and until [illegible] plenty of open grazing areas were cattle could be held until the arrival of the cattle train. [illegible] and [illegible] conversion of the owner of the Pekisko Ranch, Mr. Lancelot Gordon, [illegible] hams, [illegible]. [illegible], cowboys on [illegible] and a unison, and as fast as one car was loaded, the doors automatically fastened, and the car could be counted into place. In 1[illegible] the C. P. R. built at Cavely a [illegible] corral and loading chute. It was customary to call

he -lece Cayley in honor of Mr. W. S. Cayley, who was our first political representative (19) in the government of the North West Territories, under the administration of L. Governor Forget.

Cayley was never quite up to the needs of a small farming community and was cast in present status during the years 1.00 to 1.1, when the country quickly changed from ranching to farming. It was in 1.1 that the "Cayley Bugle" blossomed forth as an eight page paper. The year 1.00 seem to have been the hum- of development for the town of C.l.y. The railway station was opened in [illegible]. Allen as station master. Increw Brothers of Acton built a hotel, a [illegible] and a grain warehouse. At that time grain was hauled from wagons into the box cars on the seven years before any elevators were bu l . . C . l o ened eno as a new one was opened in 1 10.

[illegible] A

[illegible] did not exist until after C.... or the Aldersyde-Lethbridge line in 1.11. The railway built a siding, a loading platform, and yards on a small elevation at this point and soon little grew around it and it became the called Lacoma. At first the station agent was also the local postmaster. At present the mail is handled by Mr. J. E. Humphrey who has had a store here for nearly 20 years.

[illegible] in 1.10 a number of Finnish homesteaders came to Lacoma, but at the [illegible] district was so much [illegible] they could not even grow potatoes successfully. They all left the district six years later. It was [illegible]

before any further [illegible] was [illegible] attempted there. [illegible] considerable grain of good quality is handled through the [illegible] elevators at [illegible]zeppa.

The people of the [illegible] field [illegible] Mazeppa [illegible] of the same branch of the church [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] settler in the [illegible] district [illegible] in 18[illegible] or 18[illegible]. [illegible] has been owned by Mr. [illegible] since 18[illegible]. [illegible] in [illegible], [illegible] Mr. [illegible], [illegible] C[illegible]l, [illegible]. [illegible] the present [illegible] school. [illegible] however, [illegible] post office was established at [illegible]. [illegible] mail from [illegible]. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] mail [illegible]. [illegible] near the river, [illegible] of the mail, [illegible] post office [illegible] routes [illegible] a week.

[illegible] school district was [illegible] in [illegible] and [illegible] (c[illegible]) built the first school house. [illegible] offered considerable opposition to the [illegible] of a school

[illegible] was built by public effort under [illegible]. [illegible] was the first [illegible].

[illegible] of Alberta in [illegible]. [illegible] Council of Alberta [illegible]. [illegible] of these [illegible] Public [illegible] of Calgary. [illegible] Committee met [illegible] Council in [illegible] which [illegible] short on the form. [illegible] a member of the [illegible] Council did [illegible] regarding [illegible] the "Big" [illegible] Lake. [illegible] acted in [illegible], [illegible] for the country. [illegible] property was later acquired by [illegible].

Much attention has been centred on Aldergrove because of [illegible] Company's oil well, which is [illegible] the Big Lake [illegible]. A great quantity of oil of excellent quality was [illegible] and interest in [illegible] Lake proceeded with.

LONGVIEW.

Mr. [illegible] came to Canada [illegible] and settled in the Longview district [illegible] homesteaded on the north side of the [illegible] in 1907. The [illegible] were the first to come in. Then in 1908 Mr. [illegible] located at the head of the Big Hill. The road going on [illegible] formerly [illegible] around the mountains. By 1904 so many settlers had arrived that there was need for a school and the Big Hill School District formed.

The post office was [illegible] as Longview upon the [illegible] of Mr. J. S. [illegible]. Local service was [illegible] from 1905 to 1908. After [illegible] the post office was moved to the store.

[illegible] Lyon was the first merchant in the history of Central Store. He sold to the Allen Brothers, who in turn transferred it to Sam Thomson. Mr. Scott is the present owner.

[illegible] provide community well in the center and a point for the social life of the district.

TURNER VALLEY

Turner Valley, Black Diamond, Turner, and Okotoks are all places which have come into prominence since the beginning of the oil development in Alberta.

Black Diamond was so named by Mr. William McLennan, because of his coal mining operations at that point prior to 1906. Mr. Thomson was also influential in promoting the "record" oil well on Turner Creek. [illegible] were successful at that time, but a number of good wells have been developed in the vicinity since then. Some oil is sold Record Well. Supplies Power)?

Thomson's life story would make an interesting book of adventure. For a time he was a Hudson's Bay trader, then he served as a freighter, bringing goods by team from Strathcona to Edmonton. Turner is still oil faith justified. Spirit of Discovery.

All of these towns are typical oil field towns with their many temporary dwellings. Turner Valley and Black Diamond both have a number of substantial buildings such as garages, stores, hotels, etc.

One interesting feature is that the two schools serve these three oil field communities, and are attended by children from all over the district. Because of the great value of the oil field property the school board has sufficient funds for all up-to-date practical facilities. Their new school and Training College is the equal of any such institution.

DUNDO. to DAVISBURG.

The story of these two [illegible] is much the same. The post office was first kept at the ranch of Alex Beer from 1 [illegible] to [illegible] moved across the river to the farm of Jim Andrews. During the time that Alex Beer was postmaster, the post office was known as "Dunbow", but when it was moved to the farm of Jim Andrews, the name was changed to "Davisburg" in honor of a pioneer settler Mr. Wm. Davis.

The mail for Dunbow was brought from Calgary by way of the old Blackfoot trail, but the mail for Davisburg was distributed from Okotoks. Davisburg is now on the Okotoks rural route. Some of the pioneers of the Davisburg district prior to 1[illegible] were the Bonifaces family, Alex Beer, Jim Andrews family, Stewart family, [illegible] family, Dave Blackwood, Jack Green.

The section of the country between Blackwood and the Bow may be said to be the cradle of the farming industry of Southern Alberta. The present site of the Dunbow Industrial School was the homestead of Jack Glenn. There he first used the breaker and the first grain grown in Southern Alberta, about 1[illegible]0.

The well known settler Lacombe was influential in the founding of the Indian Industrial School at Dunbow. It was a substantial institution capable of housing nearly 200 children. There was a boys' [illegible] also a girls' dormitory, and classrooms for several grades of pupils. [illegible] were employed in the big gardens.

[illegible] used considerable coal, and per [illegible], as well as [illegible] was built, the coal [illegible] from [illegible] the bull [illegible] cattle. [illegible] used on the

[illegible] side of the block and the [illegible].

[illegible] full-grown [illegible] early morning and the [illegible] best [illegible] for [illegible]. This method allows the [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] children learning [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], although the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Many years ago a number of people from Illinois came to the Great Bear district with the idea of buying up a tract of land for a summer settlement. They found that the country was all held by big ranches at Carleton, and called them unde. at they bought the entirety of Riley Card.

Another group under the leadership of Bishop Frank came to Hopkins + purchased land east of the Big Lake. most of the people came by canal steam in the years 1910 to 1920. Among these were of the Church of the Latter Day Saints were the Anderson Wahlberg, Johnson, Dorsey + Parkins families.

Pranksburg planned in honor of Bishop Frank was the centre of life of the town and had about 25 homes in the area + a school of 480 members. [illegible] all were built.

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

who served directly in the Riel rebellion were the following:- D. C. [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Conn, [illegible] Riley, Joe [illegible], [illegible]. Most of these men served in Major Steele's Scouts. Mr. [illegible] said of Steele's Scouts, "I can not say much for the discipline of such cowboy troops, as we never saluted an officer from the time we left Calgary until we returned, but at the same time, we never forgot that Major Steele was our commanding officer. Any man in the troop would do his utmost for the Major.". This should be greatly extended in scope. I will write a [illegible] note sometime later.

PRAIRIE FIRES

Prairie fires were the scourge of the open plains. Nearly every old-timer's tale is full of death and destruction. Horses and cattle would have the hair singed from their bodies, or their hoofs burned completely off, and it was the work of the police and cowboys to put these animals out of misery. The ranch and buildings were sometimes burned to the ground even when protected by plowed fire guards.

During the fall of [illegible], the whole range country from Lethbridge to the Old Man River was burned over. It was impossible to stop the spread of the conflagration, because it burned into the deep humus soil and into the long grass roots, and with every strong wind the fire would spread again. It began early in the autumn and continued to burn until the snows of winter smothered it out. Afterward the country was riddled everywhere with holes a [illegible] foot deep where the soil had been burned away. Cowboys had a simple but effective method of combating a prairie fire. They would first start a back fire, then drag the body or [illegible] hide of a freshly killed animal over the

back fire and then swept it on its inward side by placing the other side to burn toward any advance conflagration. The animal instinct of man was not for this purpose regardless of whose brand it bore.

It was a lurid scene when the fire swept over Cedar Hill and Church service was about to begin at the home home, at Dundee. In a few minutes nine engines were busily fighting the fire fiend as it roared through the trees. An old rain of years ago soaked in gasoline and coal oil Bannister, being 'way a head, was detailed to start a backfire by dragging his lighted torch behind him across the clearing across the prairie. The men met the fire on the windward side and in a few minutes a pile of blackened ruins protected the buildings. The Church service was then proceeded with.

Mrs. R. A. Wallace tells of another fire in the fall of 1887. It was a nice clear day and she was busy hanging, when she heard a roaring like distant thunder. She looked out the window but saw no fire, so she stepped outside the door. She saw that the whole country to east of the Pipestone River was on fire, and the flames were sweeping on at a terrific speed. In front of the fire were cows bleating, calves bawling, coyotes who were desperately fleeing from the path of the fire to the shelter of the river. Even the gentle rabbits sought protection of the water by the surest margin of safety.

-3-

Bill Lonsman had come a mile to the East and purchased a roaring, shiny new boiler for his log mill to Society, for the only hot stream and it was two down E. Station. The cowboys, seeing it was th'r. were

affronted at the idea of anyone having a boiler at the door.

In a few minutes the followers of the Saxon love, were kicking that boiler around like a football. From one to it was out into the road and was left there in a wreck. Jim Devlin received it and placed it in a prominent position near the door, but not before carefully covering a hole in the back. Then he announced Buck Smith was in an excellent mood to ruthlessly lead Smith outside. "Look Buck! There is that old boiler again." Smith immediately accepted the challenge. Jim made no effort to stop him. Buck hoped everything would be received in a friendly spirit and turn himself loose in the house. "Gosh Buck, that was too bad to have happened but I believe you did that, you fellows who were responsible should be here to pull that out." remarked Jim. Buck refused to be drawn by replying "Oh I don't care, but it might have hurt somebody."

John Patterson

Ben [redacted] was one of those men who carried a gun at all time, a habit he got during the days of the Klondyke. From the time he came to this country, until he took his own life, his gun was never out of reach of his hand. Although he was a likeable sort of chap, every one felt that he was potential dynamite. Everybody was of the opinion that it would be safer not to travel with him.

Ben [redacted] and two others, one night called their wives and friends, and obtaining a horse and trap proceeded to celebrate the occasion, they had taken along a supply of liquor. After they had reached a certain drinking point in carnival, and everybody like none of the three were responsible for their actions.

Frank had removed his [illegible] and was [illegible] to get into bed when Jack gave him a hearty wallop. Frank retaliated by hitting Jack over [illegible] with a [illegible] bottle. Ben [redacted] was already in bed but as usual his gun [illegible] hung within reach of his head. 'If it's blood he wants I'll give him blood.' Ben [redacted] followed these [illegible] by shooting within an inch of Frank's head. Frank did not wait for [illegible] or anything else but rather he went out through the door like greased lightning. The next morning [illegible] found Frank [illegible] in an old barn in a [illegible] and decidedly shivering condition.

[illegible] - As related by Mrs. [illegible] Robinson.

'We were living on the [illegible] Jack [illegible] and we had charge of the mail for [illegible] district. Alec, my husband, was official postmaster and [illegible] his own and had to go to Toronto [illegible], [illegible] mail [illegible] the ranch [illegible] left alone. It was a cold [illegible] I had to [illegible] and haul a load of feed [illegible] every day.

'[illegible] I [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] for cattle. [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible] the twelve [illegible] for the mail. [illegible] he didn't enjoy [illegible] but he had to go through it.

'One Saturday, [illegible] I had gone to town, Mr. Robinson, [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible] last [illegible]

would be [illegible] to [illegible]. [illegible] I [illegible] chore

boy [illegible] t.'

[illegible]EZ V[illegible]S

[illegible] cowboys, [illegible] first [illegible] from [illegible]t, seemingly [illegible] most of their time [illegible] practical [illegible] on each other.

Angus [illegible] out [illegible] of the [illegible] city and [illegible] one street [illegible] until they [illegible] on the outskirts of the city. "[illegible], I [illegible] you [illegible] back [illegible]el. I [illegible] completely [illegible]." "[illegible], [illegible] start back."

With [illegible] in a [illegible], Angus [illegible] minutes or more. [illegible] the street. [illegible] Angus [illegible] will never be [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible].

S[illegible]D[illegible]S

The following [illegible] by [illegible] J. C. [illegible], [illegible] River.

"[illegible] would [illegible] will [illegible] can [illegible]."

"[illegible] a [illegible] as [illegible] such as [illegible]."

"I [illegible] the C[illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] good [illegible]."

"T[illegible] good [illegible] particular[illegible]

countries [illegible] freight [illegible] [illegible]. First class farm mortgages not [illegible] 5 to 7 per cent, and interest on grain loans ran from [illegible] to [illegible] per cent. The scientific [illegible] of land ownership, "[illegible] would have become perpetual [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] annual rental of [illegible] per cent of property value."

"Our [illegible] [illegible] blocks [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] more than the [illegible] of wheat."

June 1912 – The East say they built the railways that made the West – but they paid for them with our land

Tabor – Our civilization can be measured by the [illegible] we take to provide social service and a most important matter is hospitalization

Feb 7/1921 Hospitalization must form part of the work [illegible] State responsibility

[illegible] JOHN AND HIS SNAKE

A large garter snake slithered through the grass and a cowboy promptly killed it. He held it up for the rest of the men to see. "Ain't that a whopper! Did you ever see such a big garter snake?"

The men were surprised at its length. But farmer John Jones rolled the whites of his eyes and backed away in terror.

"Get dat ting away from heah, ah hates snakes."

The boys hastened to reassure him. "But it is only a common garter snake it won't hurt you, it is not like a rattler".

"Ah don't care what kind o' snake it is, keep it away from me.

The cowboy laughingly threw it at the feet of the horrified darky. For a few minutes more they continued to tease the colored man about his fear of snakes and then the subject was dropped.

Before bedtime that evening the practical joker of the bunch got busy and inserted a piece of rope between the blankets in farmer John's bunk. After everyone was in bed and the lights were out, Farmer John felt something moving around his feet. He lay still for a moment. There it was again, something cold and scaley was moving at his feet. With a yell he jumped out of bed and threw the quilts back. "There's a snake in mah bed" he yelled. "Somebody come and get it out of here." A lamp was soon lighted and the men carefully removed the blankets and then gleefully revealed the piece of rope.

"O[illegible]ADING IN 1894

As told to [illegible] by Lewis Connell.

"When we landed in Calgary the first thing we did, of course, was find a place to stay, and we went to the old Royal Hotel. There we made a few inquiries about land and settlement and how to get around to see the country.

"So early next morning my partner and I went to a livery barn to hire a horse for the day. We were told that it would cost us six dollars a day for a team and buggy or five dollars a day for use of a single driving horse. We felt that this would be quite too expensive for us so we started out to walk to Shoot Creek (Ogden's). About two miles out of Calgary, we decided that the vast expanse of treeless country (there were no trees anywhere south of Calgary then) was no place for men on foot.

A team and wagon came along behind us so we sat down and waited. The driver was a typical cowpuncher. He was dressed in buckskin clothes and his long black hair hung down to his shoulders.

'Hello strangers! You must be new around here not to get out here.' was his greeting.

'Yes, we are newcomers and are looking for a farm and land somewhere around Shoot Creek. You seem to know there so like I suppose! Where could you suggest that we go?'

'Yes I know the country pretty well, and here in the winding days that there were no ranchers or farmers, just

buffaloes and Injuns. If I were [illegible] I would go out and locate on those buttes (hills) on the south side of the Missouri, near to Judith. [illegible]! If you look on the east slope you will never have your crops frozen down."

Our informant was Sam Livingstone, the old trader and buffalo hunter. We followed his advice and have raised on the northeast slope of the Flat Side, and not once in all these years have I had frozen grain or frozen potatoes.

[illegible] PIGS EVER IN LOG

"[illegible] so much out of feed for these pigs, I'm still no do with them!' inquired Charles Short.

The elder Mr. Short (J.[illegible].Short) looked pensively across the prairie. "Yes son! I have been thinking about these pigs for several days and wondering what to do with them. Bannisters at Levisburg turn them loose along the river but we can't do that here, we are too far from the river and they would starve to death on this bald-headed prairie. There is so little grain grown that I don't know where we could buy any oats or barley."

"Well we got no feed and we will have to turn them loose same like,' was Charles gayly, "they like to wallow in the mud, why not take them out to the Big Lake and let them go to it."

The next morning he twelve pigs were loaded in the wagon and taken over to the lake. They [illegible], off and on throughout the summer on those pigs they lived in good health and condition even though they were not fed as corn-fed pigs.

In the fall the Shorts decided it was time to get their pigs home again. From the fun began. These pigs were like wild animals and on the slightest provocation they would run out into the long rushes and hide. When [illegible] them on horseback and rope them but even this proved futile. They grew wise and feeling elated at not being able to catch their pigs.

"We will get those pigs home if we have to camp there to do it" said Mr. Short. They got their work started, but they had to camp over night to get it.

BILL LIVINGSTONE RIDES A BUFFALO

It was a hot summer day, one of those sultry days that only those who have lived on the prairie for many years can really know.

The door of the Livingstone's log cabin was wide open and the west window had been taken completely out of its square casement.

Samuel
~~Bill~~ Livingstone, ~~a typical boy~~, sat quietly shaving his nine in that slow way of a man who has lived all his life in the great outdoors. Young Bill was lying stretched out on the floor, it was too hot even for him to play outdoors.

The father got up and idly leaned out of the window and the young lad scrambled to his feet to look out of the window too. They saw below them an old buffalo cow lying panting in the shade of the shack and contentedly flicking the flies off her back. The father looked down for a minute and then quietly picked up the boy and set him out through the window onto the back of the buffalo cow. The friendly animal jumped to its feet and galloped away; the startled youngster had unconsciously dug his fingers into the woolly back and tried vainly to hang on. He was quickly shaken off unhurt and the animal galloped off over the prairie. Thus it came about that Bill Livingstone is probably the only living man who can truthfully say that he has ridden on the back of a buffalo.

The above related incident occurred just on the outskirts of the city of Calgary, and in the late seventies.

THE GOPHER HOUSE as related to R.L.F by Ed. Beecher

In the early eighties Macmillan's ranch, on Sheep Creek, was a well known stopping place on the trail between Calgary and Macleod, but in 1882 Kenny Cameron settled where the town of Okotoks now is and for some reason the freighters and travellers went there in preference to Kenny Cameron's instead of stopping at Macmillan's place.

Mr. Macmillan decided to sell out, but it was sometime before he could find anyone who was interested and he knew that he would have to put up a pretty strong argument if he was going to make a sale. In due course the prospective buyer arrived, he was a young Englishman by the name of Jack Dashwood. The next day the place was busy indeed, several riders and teamsters dropped in for their mail and a bite to eat. In the evening a number of cowboys rode in for a few drinks and a game of cards. After each order of drinks someone would add to Macmillan's bar or even five dollar bill. "Here Shorty; here's your change". "That's all right 'Mac', keep the change". Dashwood was greatly surprised at the prodigality of these men and he saw here a business proposition that he could not afford to pass up. That very night he had bought and paid cash for the Macmillan stopping place.

But Dashwood did not know the money that was passed around was all belonged to Macmillan and that the cowboys and teamsters were really getting free drinks and free meals for their collusion in the plot. The young Englishman was soon

to find out that he bought a 'white elephant."

It was not many months until he found that he must leave everything and go to work or face starvation. One day he sat idly on the steps wondering what to do to get some money. "Maybe I could put on a show! Yes! But what kind of a show could I own put on? Just then a gopher a few yards away poked out of its burrow and this gave him the inkling of an idea. He dug a hole in the ground and put a cover over it. Then he advertised a show called "Gopher Jack", and he had the temerity to charge five dollars admission. When the time for the show came, the audience were curious to see the bewhiskered Dashwood bob up out of the hole and then duck down again. He did this several times and then came boldly out among them. For some reason the cowboys took it as a hilarious joke, but for the short time afterward in which he stayed in the country, he was known as "Gopher Jack". The place was called the "Gopher House" for many years afterward, but today one lone spruce tree marks the spot where the Gopher House" stood

[illegible] KAZEE AND SLIMMERY BILL

The roundup was over and the boys of the Burns (M·L) ranch were having a couple of days well earned holiday.

"Hello! looks like we are going to have company for dinner! stranger to me, I never saw him before," remarked one of the men. The visitor came over to the little group at the barn.

"How do! boys! this is Pat Burns ranch the M L isn't it?"

"Yep - this is Paddy Burns place alright."

"Well does a fellow by the name of 'Slimmery Bill' work here?"

'Slimmery Bill' is foreman here, he's up at the bunkhouse now."

The visitor walked toward the bunkhouse and as he went he hitched up his chaps and turned his belt around so that his .45 revolver hung just right. Without ceremony he pushed open the door and entered and the two men tensely watched each other for a moment.

"Well, Kazee, what do you want?"

"You now, 'Slimmery Bill' what I want, I want you! go for your guns!."

'Slimmery Bill' did not move. "Kazee, if you had your eyes open you would see that I have not got a gun, and besides remember we are in Canada. You might get me but remember the Mounties will get you.'

Walter Kazee relaxed, he could not shoot a man who would not fight back. "You half-breed Mexican! Slimmery is no right name for you, ~~you sent me to the pen to save your dirty hide, you're just as much of a rustler as I ever was but you know it.~~'

"Kazee, you get out and get off this place."

"I'll get out alright but I am going to hang around this country and some day I'll get even with you!" was Kazee's reply.

~~Shortly after that~~, Then Slippery Bill collected his wares and left the country. Kazee promptly followed him but it was several years before anything was again heard of them. Then a a newspaper heading told the whole story. "Walter Kazee shoots Slippery Bill in Seattle Dive."

Both worked together here for yrs but Kazee never got a chance at him.

Ed. note - This is just a story to illustrate the attitude of these men toward each other. They were real characters and the one really did shoot the other eventually.

THE LOST BED ROLL told by Jimmy Johnson

"Here Henry, hold my horse will you, while I help the cook with his outfit."

"Sure, Dan!" and Henry Meinsinger reached for the reins. While Dan Riley was busy helping the cook hitch up his horses, Henry Meinsinger found interest elsewhere and so he tied the bridle reins to Dan's bed roll.

Ted Hill came running up, "Anybody seen Hunter Powell?"

"Yes" was the reply "He's on the other side of the wagon holding my horse."

Ted Hill hurried around the end of the chuck wagon and stumbled over something and fell directly in front of Dan's horse. The horse snorted and bucked away, and, of course, the bed roll came with it. This was too much for any self-respecting prairie horse and before an one could do anything it was galloping away and kicking wildly at the thing that was dragging along with it. Its vicious efforts soon loosened the ropes on the bed roll and in a short time Dan's blankets were scattered for a distance of half a mile.

BILL [illegible] BUCKSKIN

Bill was one of those long lanky individuals who knew that his ability to ride ferocious bronks was due to the fact that he could almost wrap his long legs around the belly of a cayuse and hook his toes together underneath. But one day Bill went down to defeat under circumstances that were discouraging to say the least.

Arrangements had been made to hold a dance at the Gladys School but for days it had rained and rained and rained, the way it can rain in Alberta when it does get started. Then the skies cleared in good time, and everyone knew that the dance would be a success. Bill knew that he would just have to get to that dance even though the hills were muddy.

When he reached the Wichwood River, he felt that it was too dangerous to swim his horse across it, so he left his horse at Charlie Schack's barn and procured a rowboat to come over to my father's place.

"Say Lawrence, have you got a horse you could let me have to go to that dance tonight?"

"Well" my father replied, "I have only the buckskin, but you can have the horse if you think you can ride him."

"Sure I can ride that buckskin cayuse, I got to get to that dance."

Now this particular horse was one of a band of notorious horses that had been herded in from Montana and sold to the MacPherson Horse Ranch. All were of the type that would do

for stampede horses today and the buckskin was no exception.

"Bill, I think you better take that horse out of the corral before you mount, it is rather sloppy in here."

"Oh that is alright. I'll get on here; just open the gate," he confidently stated.

Before Bill was comfortably settled in the saddle the buckskin went into one of its temperamental tantrums. Daylight showed between Bill and the saddle and with the next jump, our friend was flying through the air with his long arms and legs thrashing in all directions.

Kerplunk! Splash! and Bill landed in one of those deep, rocky holes such as only a western corral can produce.

The horse was soon corralled and this time Bill firmly stayed in the saddle. He went to the dance but the odour of his clothing was such that he was hardly a popular partner for that evening.

EARLY THRESHING MACHINES

There are at least two claimants to the honor of bringing the first threshing machine into Southern Alberta. However, ~~I believe that~~ probably priority goes to Sam Livingstone who brought a machine in here before the railway had reached Calgary. It was indeed a far-sighted venture because in the year 1883 there was very little grain grown west of Winnipeg. He purchased the threshing outfit in Fort Garry (Winnipeg) and dismantling it, he loaded it on wagons and headed westward for High River (Spitzie)

At Medicine Hat, and again at Blackfoot (Bassano), it was necessary to build a raft to ferry the equipment across the rivers.

We of today would hardly recognize it as a thresher for it was like a large grain cleaner (fanning machine) with a toothed cylinder attached. It had no blower or straw carrying apparatus, neither was it supplied with an automatic feeder.

The power to operate the machine was supplied by twelve head of horses. The horses were hitched to a vertical mast and were then driven round and round in a circle with this power unit in the centre. The power was transferred to the thresher by means of a long square and jointed rod known as a tumbling rod. Each time the horses made their circuit it was necessary for them to step over the tumbling rod which connected the power unit to the thresher.

It was necessary for one man to feed the unthreshed grain into the cylinder by hand and this was dirty work indeed.

The threshed grain was carried away from the machine in sacks or buckets and this job kept one or two men very busy. The loose straw tumbled out at the rear of the machine and several men were required to keep it forked away. Although the grain was as thoroughly threshed as it is today there was considerably more manual labor attached and the operation was a much slower one.

One day, while doing some threshing for Smith, the machine refused to operate satisfactorily and none of the crew was able to repair it. One of the men remarked "What is why the thing won't work, it sets right on the side of it 'Made in Ontario'!"

The Cochrane Ranch Co. had a threshing machine shipped to Calgary in 1884, and this was a horse-power machine but of larger capacity and it saved several that imported by Livingstone. The Cochrane people only used it one year and then sold it to Charlie Jackson. Charlie Jackson obtained an upright steam engine from Colonel Walker in Calgary and used this for power instead of horses. It required four horses to pull the engine from farm to farm and another four horses to move the separator. For several years this outfit did all the threshing between Shaw Creek, Davisburg and Calgary. Dan Clarke and Charlie Jackson operated this outfit on a partnership basis until Dan Clarke sold it to the Lockwood Bros. of Shaw Creek. The machine was then used southward from Cochrane to Bantan and even the Little Bow.

The horse-power rig reported by Little Stone was sold to Jack Yorkish and a few years later it became the property of Mcht. Findlay and Jim Lenkman. During the dry years of 1889 to 1893, there was very little grain to thresh and in 1897 this horse-power outfit seems to have been the only one operating between Calgary and Macleod. At this time it was the property of Fulcher.

In those days each farmer stacked his crop until such time as the threshers could come to his farm during the fall and winter months. If a farmer did not wish to wait his turn for the threshers to come he could spread the sheaves in the corral and drive a bunch of horses over and over the grain. The straw was then forked to one side and the grain and chaff gathered up. In 1884 Mcht. Findlay threshed some of his crop by this method and he also threshed some with a flail.

Stack threshing was the usual method for many years but about 1907 stack threshing such as we do now became a general practice. The next great advance was in 1904 when Daniel Spencer (at Aldersyde) purchased a machine with a straw-blower on it. For a time many farmers opposed the use of this apparatus on the grounds that it cut the straw up too fine but its labor-saving quality was a point that no western farmer could resist and in a short time this type of machine was indeed popular.

Today we have the combine thresher which cuts and threshes the grain in one operation. With a roaring of engines and whir of machinery, the thing moves along the field. A truck quickly detaches itself from its side and goes on its way with a loud

of grain. The thresher was slowly on and in a short time the truck is back for another load. In a few days the field of waving golden grain lies stark and naked, and the wheat itself is on its way to the bread factories of the world.

Early farmers like to recall those days of twenty-five to thirty years ago when the great steam tractors supplied the motive power in seed time and in harvest. The use of mechanized farming had truly begun when those coils of iron and steel spouted their black smoke into the blue of Alberta skies. In the spring they would pull a battery of ploughs that would ordinarily require the work of thirty horses. In the fall these huge steam tractors supplied the power for still larger threshing machines. These threshing outfits were a beehive of industry and precision that could only be matched by a modern factory. I recall one such outfit which required a crew of thirty-one men to keep it going at top notch. Fourteen teamsters and six field men were kept busy supplying loads of sheaves to feed that hungry maw as it growled relentlessly for twelve hours a day. In a short time a field to be cleared of stooks and the machine moved on to the next farm. As the outfit moved from farm to farm it ~~moved like~~ a small army. First came the puffing engine pulling the threshing separator, the cook caboose, and then the bunk car (sleeping quarters of the men). Following this were two four-horse tank wagons carrying water for the engine, and behind these was a wagon full of coal. The balance of the procession was made up of the fourteen bundle racks.

In 1906, forty-five thousand harvestors left the East to help with the Western harvest, but now the day of large harvesting crews is past. More grain is harvested and handled more quickly and with less expense than ever before.

ONCE THE CATTLE FAILED

The boys of the Coo Coo Ranch (the brand was two C's back to back thus ∞) had decided to have a little celebration and, of course, like all cowboys of the time, they could not celebrate without the use of considerable liquor. But prohibition was the order of the day and the police were doing their best to see that it was enforced. However, the boys knew full well that all they had to do was to send out the word and a keg of whiskey would soon be forthcoming. But the police were not asleep and as soon as the keg was unloaded at the ranch two lawmen appeared on the scene and took command.

The keg of liquor was standing on a raised platform which had been built to facilitate loading and unloading wagons of all kinds. One of the lawmen sat down on the barrel while the other went to get a team and wagon in order to confiscate the evidence.

In the meantime one of the cowboys procured a hoe and hid and slipping around unseen let one of the lawmen bore a hole through the bottom of the barrel and let the contents run out on the ground. There was no advantage to the lawmen to take an empty keg, so they just crippled and departed.

ONCE THE CATTLE FAILED

The boys of the Cee Cee Ranch (the brand was two C's back to back thus ℭ) had decided to have a little celebration and, of course, like all cowboys of the time, they could not celebrate without the use of considerable liquor. But prohibition was the order of the day and the police were doing their best to see that it was enforced. However, the boys knew full well that all they had to do was to send out the word and a keg of whiskey would soon be forthcoming. But the police were not asleep and as soon as the keg was unloaded at the ranch two lawmen arrived on the scene and took command.

The keg of liquor was standing on a raised platform which had been built to facilitate loading and unloading goods of all kinds. One of the lawmen sat down on the barrel while the other went to get a team and wagon in order to confiscate the evidence.

In the meantime one of the cowboys procured a brace and bit and slipping around to the back of the barrel bored a hole through the bottom of the barrel and let the contents run out on the ground. There was no advantage to the lawmen to take an empty keg, so they just grinned and departed.

"LITTLE BEAR" THOMPSON AND DEERFOOT

Note The full details of this story are given ~~me~~ by the late Harold Pannister. In "The Rangeman" Kelly only makes a short note of it.

'Little Bear" Thompson, as he was commonly called, had homesteaded about one mile east of the Cochrane ranch. It being in the year of 1887, the Indians had not all learned to respect white man's laws and white man's property. Then Deerfoot and another Blackfoot Indian came to Thompson's cabin and found it deserted. Not seeing him near they took a line to run. They loaded their pack horses with much of Thompson's goods and went on down the river several miles and camped. When Thompson came home and saw the depredation he immediately set out to follow the travois tracks till [illegible] the Indians. He came right into their camp and covered them with his rifle and demanded that they take the things home again. They laughed at him, whereupon he went into their tepees and threw his belongings outside. The Indians threw each article back into the tent as fast as the white man could throw them out again. This was too much for the quick tempered Thompson and he shot at one of the Indians, but without trying to kill him. Deerfoot and his companion ran into the bush and returned the fire.

The fight was on in earnest, and it looked bad for Thompson when he suddenly found that he had a helper in the person of Tucker Beach.

"Hey Thompson how many Injuns are against you?"

"Just two, but one of them is Deerfoot."

Thompson carelessly exposed himself for a moment and was shot in the arm but Tucker Peach instantly returned the fire and an Indian dropped dead. All was quiet for a time, then a clatter of hoofs indicated that Deerfoot had found his horse and was fleeing as fast as he could.

ONE OF OUR EARLY ELECTIONS

The opponents met on the same platform to discuss the questions of the day. Mr. Lineham represented the conservatives and Mr. Boswell was for the liberal faction. The meeting was held in Okotoks in a small office room and there were only thirty voters in attendance.

Mr. Boswell in his remarks said, "If I am elected, I will guarantee a bounty of fifteen dollars on every wolf killed and I will also see to it that we have better roads."

Lineham jumped to his feet, "Damn it, boys it can't be done. If he pays fifteen dollars for every wolf there will be no money for roads and bridges."

The meeting was becoming somewhat boisterous when the town overseer interrupted by bringing up the question that the cemetery ought to have a fence around it. Mr. Lineham promptly offered to donate sufficient lumber, Mr. Boswell promised the iron material, and John Glenn offered to do the blacksmith work. And so the town folks were finally satisfied with the meeting, regardless of who should win the election.

ROAD CONTRACTS PRIOR TO 1905

A road commissioner or engineer was appointed by the member of parliament. This commissioner was responsible to the member for all work done and for all money spent on roads and bridges. In fact the member of parliament stated the amount which was allocated to his electoral district and between them they carried out public works programme. The commissioner then placed in the various post offices notices of when and where contracts were to be let for certain road work to be done. In the spring of 1910, a notice had been placed in the post office at Cochrane that the commissioner would be at the Dunbar Industrial School to call for bids on a grade to be put down to the school, the work to go to the lowest bidder. At the appointed time, all those present went out to where the work was to be performed and the commissioner explained what grading etc., was to be done. "Now boys, you know what is expected here, and you have looked over the job for yourselves, what price will you contract to do this work for? What are your bids?"

Someone made a bid of one thousand dollars, another bid eight hundred, still another undercut him and bid six hundred. The bidders saw their profit being cut to a minimum, but still they wanted the job as long as there was a profit in it. Ed. Pickard bid that he would do the work for four hundred dollars, and it was knocked down to him. Later it was seen that a little more work would have to be done than the original plans called for and he received in all $820.00 for that particular contract.

SCHOOLS

The Legislative Assembly had made full allowance for school advancement in the School Act, which allowed the formation of school districts under which the said regulations is still exist.

When the west was surveyed in 1884, two sections of land were set aside in every township as school land. The proceeds realized by its sale were to be used for the building and maintaining of rural schools. All schools in the Northwest Territories were under the supervision of the Minister of Education at Regina, who employed a number of school inspectors.

The first rural school south of Calgary was built in Davisburg in 1887 and was school number 70 in the Northwest Territories. Sixteen pupils attended the Davisburg school, children of many homesteaders in the Bannister district. Mr. Mr. Bannister and others attempted to form this school district, but met with considerable opposition from the bachelor element. The experience of opposition at Davisburg was to be repeated at the formation of many other districts for some years after words.

The story of the forming of the Gladys school was a good example of the difficulties to be met with. Mr. Eli. (Lefty) Fisk, T. P. Thorne, and others, decided to form a school district on Gladys Ridge in the year 1890. Upon the promoters called for a decision of the ratepayers, the bachelors of the district voted unanimously against having a school because it would increase taxes. Another meeting was called one following Saturday at the home of Mr. Fisk, and the same vote was heard again. This state of affairs continued every Saturday for nine weeks. Then

three copies of the School Act were obtained and the whole matter was placed before the voters again, with the same result. Finally the Minister of Education sent a School Inspector to the area, with orders that his word was to be final. So after four months of such difficulties, Oroide School District No. 100 was formed.

The incident at Oroide's in regard to its school affairs is one that will sound familiar in many places today.

The first school at Oroide's was built about one mile north of the town and, of course, the town pupils soon composed the majority of those who attended. The town wanted a school of its own and the rural district did not wish to affiliate with the town, but all admitted that two schools were completely out of the question. After two whole months of argument, they finally decided to move the school into the town.

Frog Lake

On April 2nd, 1925, will be commemorated the 40th anniversary of one of the tragic events in Western Canada's history. This is known as the Frog Lake Massacre, an incident during the troublesome times of the Saskatchewan Rebellion in 1885.

Frog Lake is a beautiful sheet of water situated about 50 miles in a northwesterly direction from the town of Lloydminster, which is on the boundary line between the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

At the time of the Northwest Rebellion the nearest centre to Frog Lake was Fort Pitt, held by a garrison of mounted police 35 in number under the command of Inspector Dickens, a son of the famous novelist.

At Frog Lake there are several Indian reserves set aside for various bands of Cree Indians. In 1885 there was in that neighborhood a restless band of Indians under the leadership of Chief Big Bear, and son "Wandering Spirit." Big Bear had repeatedly given trouble before this time, and had consistently refused to take treaty in the regular way. He had been in communication with Louis Riel, and is believed to have had some sort of understanding with him. At that time there was at Frog Lake a small community of whites comprising a Hudson Bay Trading post in charge of Mr. Cameron, and Indian Agency for the surrounding reserves under the direction of Mr. Quinn, a Roman Catholic mission with two priests in charge - Fathers Farfard and Marchand. The missionaries were engaged in building up a community centre which it was intended should include a flour and saw mill. A dam was being build on Frog Creek, the outlet

of Frog Lake, and a large water turbine had been freighted with oxen all the way from St. Paul, Minnesota, a distance of over 1000 miles. Mr. Gowanlock, a millwright, was superintending the erection of the dam and the mill.

Sometime previous to the outbreak, two Mounted Police who had been temporarily stationed at Frog Lake as an outpost from Fort Pitt, had been withdrawn to Fort Pitt at the request of Mr. Quinn who said their presence irritated the Indians. Consequently the little group of white men with their wives at Frog Lake were entirely unprotected. Mr. Quinn was confident that he could keep the Indians quiet, but events proved that he was tragically mistaken. On the morning of Thursday, April 2nd, 1885. early mass was being celebrated in the little mission by the priests. The Indians came surging around and began to make a disturbance. The priests pleaded with them to be quiet but without result. When the service was dismissed, as the people were walking from the church over to Mr. Delaney's house which was situated on a knoll a short distance away, the massacre began. There is some difference of opinion as to who was actually the first victim. In the historic accounts there is much confusion. According to a story told the writer by an old resident of Frog Lake District, Mr. Delaney, the farm instructor, was the first victim. It is said that there was a personal feud between him and "Wandering Spirit", Big Bear's turbulent son. Big Bear himself claimed he was opposed to the massacre, and Mr. Cameron, a Hudson Bay trader and a surviving eye witness of the affair, says that he heard

Big Bear shouting "Stop" after the massacre had began. However that may be, nine victims in all were cruelly shot down by Indians, including the two priests, one of whom was shot in the back while administering the last rites of the church to Delaney who was lying mortally wounded. The women were spared, and although hurried up and down through a rough country for several weeks as prisoners of Big Bear's band, they were so well protected by a Mr. Pritchard and other English-speaking half-breeds that they escaped unharmed other than for the incidental hardship suffered.

After the massacre the Indians looted all the supplies at Frog Lake and burnt the little village. The bodies of the victims were thrown into the cellars of the burnt buildings where they remained for several years. Afterwards, a Sergeant-Major of the North West Mounted Police made a chart of the ground and the dead bodies that were located were taken up and re-interred in a little cemetery which is now kept in order by the Mounted Police who are stationed at Onion Lake some fifteen miles away. The Roman Catholic church abandoned the Frog Lake mission and also the building of the mill. All that remained to mark the enterprise is the turbine wheel which still lies by the partially-built dam at Frog Creek some two miles from the scene of the massacre. Where the massacre took place nothing is left except the cellar holes of the old buildings, the little cemetery, and a few domestic fruit and flour shrubs which have now run wild. There is no building of any sort within a mile or two of the spot, and the locality is shunned by

by local residents by whom it is described as "The Massacre Ground".

After the massacre and the sacking of Frog Lake, the Indians lay siege to Fort Pitt, garrisoned, as has before been stated, by a small force of Mounted Police and the employes of the Hudson Bay Company. The latter surrendered to the Indians as prisoners, and Inspector Dickens, feeling that it was hopeless to try to hold the Fort, which was really a fort only in name, with the handful of men at his command, constructed scows and as soon as the river was open, floated down to join the other Mounted Police at Battleford. Nearly a month afterward one of the military columns sent to suppress the rebellion under the command of General Strange, marched from Calgary via Edmonton down the Saskatchewan Valley and succeeded after a long chase in capturing a number of Big Bear's band and releasing the prisoners. So far as Big Bear's band were concerned a number of them were tried for the murder of the Frog Lake victims, and on the morning of the 27th November, 1885, eight of them including "Wandering Spirit" chanting their death songs to the last, were hanged at Battleford in the presence of a number of whites and Indians.

This ended one of the few tragic chapters in Western Canadian history. Owing to the wisdom and tact of the Hudson Bay Company's officials, and later of the North West Mounted Police, fortunately there has been very little trouble between whites and Indians in Western Canada. The Saskatchewan rebellion of 1885, of which the Frog Lake massacre was the most tragic incident, was due to the fact that temporarily the ordinary tactful management of the Indians and half-breeds was not carried out during the process of

surveying the land along the Saskatchewan in preparation for new settlers.